

support of the paragraphs in the Address to which he alluded, and the hon. gentleman will find, when the papers are laid before the House, that those statements will be in every way corroborated and sustained. The hon. gentleman has spoken very strongly as to the extravagant policy of the Government with respect to the Pacific Railway, and he has quoted a resolution moved by the late Sir George E. Cartier, that the construction of that railway should be proceeded with only so far as the resources of the country would allow. That was the policy of the former Government of which I was a member. That was the policy which we carried out so long as we were in power, and that policy was only altered by the Government of the hon. gentleman himself, when in the first place, they decided to construct the whole work, specially by the Government, and pledged the Government, under the arrangements made by Lord Carnarvon, to proceed with the road and to finish a great portion of it within a certain number of years. That was the policy of the hon. gentleman's Government. Without any reference to our resources, without any reference to consequent taxation, without any reference to the burdens that would be cast upon the people by that arrangement, he pledged the Government, as a Government, to complete that road, to spend two millions a year, I think it was, in British Columbia, and to finish the whole road from Lake Superior by 1890—in nineteen years—and yet the hon. gentleman now says that we have adopted an extravagant policy and we are pushing the road too vigorously. Why, we are finishing the road commenced rather ineffectually by the hon. gentleman himself from Lake Superior to Red River. Surely he does not object to that. We have also given out contracts to complete 127 miles of road in British Columbia, based on the hon. gentleman's own advertisement for contracts. Was the hon. gentleman sincere when he advertised and called for tenders to build 127 miles of railroad on the Frazer River, or was he not? Was it merely to affect the elections in British Columbia? We must suppose that the hon. gentleman intended to build this 127 miles at the western extremity of the Pacific road. We are carrying out his

own contracts between Lake Superior and Red River. I do not think the hon. gentleman will object—at least the *Globe*, his organ, or the organ of the Opposition, does not object—to building cheap railways across the prairies, to meet the rapid rush of emigrants into our North-West. That is the policy of the Government, and I do not see that we are in any way open to the charge of extravagance or extra vigour, made by the hon. gentleman in his speech just now. The hon. gentleman has objected to the management of the North-West and the management of the Indians by the present Administration. Sir, the policy of the late Government we have found to be very imperfect, perhaps they are not very much to blame for that, because this country is an enormous country, and new questions are arising every moment. A great proportion of the arrangements to be made were experimental. I admit that the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) had a vast and unexplored region placed under his charge, and a new subject to enter upon when he took up the administration of affairs there. But I will say distinctly, that, whatever changes we have made in that country have been improvements which experience has shown should be made, upon the system of administration that was found when we assumed the Government. But the hon. gentleman says that we sent improper agents up there. I am not aware that we sent improper agents. There was one man named Gow sent up there who was appointed by mistake, and the moment the mistake was discovered it was rectified, and the person was discharged. With reference to every other man that has been appointed since the present Government came into power, I am not aware that any charge against their efficiency or their propriety can be made. The hon. gentleman says that he does not know what has become of Gow now. I do not know where he is, nor in what part of the North-West he may be—perhaps living under the same roof as Mr. Nixon or Dr. Hagarty, or some other gentleman appointed by the hon. gentleman opposite, but at all events, the moment the error was found out it was rectified, and the person was removed.

MR. MILLS: Is Dr. Hagarty still in the service?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.