

interest of Canada was paramount. The Imperial Parliament gave a guarantee on the ground that the work would be beneficial to the Empire.

That for Canada to construct a railroad at a probable expense of a hundred millions for the purpose of opening a connection with British Columbia and her fifteen thousand whites can be, in a commercial point of view, anything but madness, nobody has been yet found explicitly to say. Suppose the New England States, whose aggregate wealth must be as great as ours, had undertaken by themselves to carry a railway to the Pacific Coast before the existence of San Francisco, for the purpose of connecting themselves with a place like Burrard's Inlet, what would have become of the Yankee's reputation for good sense? In this case the political aim of the enterprise is almost as little likely to be fulfilled as the commercial. It is inconceivable that geography, against which no power has yet prevailed, should so completely succumb to our Acts of Parliament as to permit this more than unnatural combination. The British Columbians themselves are frank; they do not pretend to care much for the railway as a bond of union, though they clamour for the expenditure of Dominion money in their Province. In private all the world is of one mind on this subject; and, as we have said before, it is a sinister fact that in public not one man has been found to make a resolute resistance, or indeed any resistance at all, to this desperate waste of the money of our people. Fear of being out of fashion, and being denounced by some organ of toadyism as disloyal, has prevailed in every heart over duty to the country.

With regard to the North-West Territory there is more to be said. Had the British Government, with its Hudson Bay Company charters and monopolies, as absurd as Papal grants, not stood in the way, the country would long ago have been colonized in the best manner without a cent of expense to Canada, without a violent disturbance of the value of her own agricultural products, and with all the benefits of whatever kind