

work ourselves or it will be undertaken by those who will succeed us ere long. I am surprised at the feeling which has been expressed on the subject of the expense which the construction of that road will entail. I have before me an offer of a gentleman who is in a position to furnish a guarantee of his good faith to build the road for \$25,000 a mile, and if he is given the control of the enterprise he and his friends are quite capable of carrying out the engagement. According to that estimate the road would cost about \$17,500,000, which is not an excessive sum. I know in Manitoba we want to have the road built at any cost. When the present Manitoba Government came into power they adopted an economical policy, of which I approve; but nevertheless they have been obliged to change their policy, and, what is more, have decided to incur the necessary expense to interest capitalists in the construction of that road. I think it is a project which could not be left to local enterprise. The Imperial Government authorities and the Dominion Government should aid the local Administration in the construction of such an immense work—a road which will certainly be an advantage not only to Canada but to the Empire. From all I can learn, the navigation of Hudson Bay will be open for four or five months of the year. It has been the means of communication between England and the Hudson Bay territories for two centuries, and it was by that route that the first white settlers of the North-West penetrated to the Red River under Lord Selkirk. Some of their descendants are still living in the Province of Manitoba. In all the years that the Hudson Bay has been navigated I have never heard of any great disaster occurring there, such as we hear of continually on other seas. While, therefore, Hudson Straits are closed for a considerable portion of the year, the route has the advantage of being safe while it is open. It has been said that the Dominion has expended a large amount of money for the benefit of Manitoba and the North-West. I am under the impression that we have collected enough within our own limits to pay our way, and many settlers have come from the older Provinces of the Dominion to cast in their lot with us. I do not know that they have all succeeded, but they have taken their chances. I think it is not generous on the part of some

members of this House to say that Manitoba is a burden on the Dominion. I do not believe that the Province has failed at any time to contribute its share to the public revenue. Nevertheless, we are a new country, and we are not in a position to prosecute such large works unaided, and we should not be called upon to bear all the risks and expense of opening up that new country alone. We are perfectly within our right in asking for aid from the central Government, and if it cannot be given we are at least entitled to have our demands carefully considered. We don't seek to promote our own interest only; what we demand is assistance for the prosecution of a work which will benefit all Canada. With a view to proving that we take a great interest in the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, I take the liberty of reading to the House the following article from the *Winnipeg daily Tribune* of the 8th instant:—

“A petition signed by representatives of Manitoba and the Territories, asking that the Dominion Government will grant a guarantee to land grant bonds for the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, will be presented to Sir John Macdonald, as Minister of Railways. The petition sets forth that if the Government gives the guarantee that there are capitalists who are ready to go on with the construction of the road. It is not at all unlikely that the representatives of the North-West in the Senate and House of Commons, with Mr. Hugh Sutherland, will form a deputation, and the whole subject will be fully discussed before the Government next week. The general impression by parties who ought to know is that the Government looks favorably upon the scheme, and that the aid asked for may be granted, if not entirely, at least in a modified form.”

From what has been said, it seems that the Government are better disposed than many members of this honorable House to grant something in aid of this undertaking. I hope the Senate will give this question the consideration which is due to a work of such importance.

HON. MR. SUTHERLAND—It is well known that the Hudson Bay Company have been navigating these northern waters for two centuries and, if I am correctly informed, during all that time only two vessels have been lost. I know that one of them was a miserable ship. I had reason to give more than ordinary attention to the case, having lost something on the vessel myself. This would go far to show that the navigation of Hudson Bay and Straits is not so very dangerous after all. I am informed by a