

electorate, and are demoralizing the churches and the people of the country. This Government, intoxicated by their large majority in the Commons, and by the kind manner in which the majority of this House yield to their wishes—unfortunately for the interests of the country—have become so reckless, that the bankers of Montreal and of Toronto are at this day alarmed to think of the position of our affairs. They appear to forget that we are a people of limited numbers and limited wealth, only struggling into existence by hardship and toil. There may be an appearance of wealth in our cities. We may see a number of costly carriages with liveried servants; but we are not quite sure that those carriages are not run by moneys obtained by fraud—by moneys obtained by defaulting banks. We are not sure that some of the best houses in which those people live are not built by money obtained by fraud in connection with the banks and other monetary institutions of the country.

I say that the Government forget the depressed state of the Maritime Provinces which every newspaper that comes from there proclaims. They forget the limited resources of the Province of Quebec. They have got in their brain the fame that will reflect on them, poor men, in having constructed this colossal railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that they may travel in their triumphal car over that road from ocean to ocean, and we behold them rushing with electric speed this public work through the vast Laurentian ranges and the gorges and canyons of the Rocky Mountains to reach that rich and fertile agricultural country of British Columbia with its 16,000 white people all told; and the Government are looking forward to the joy with which they will traverse the continent in their triumphal car ere the bells have rung in the advent of 1886. There is not a banker or enlightened merchant in the country who does not know that the public obligations which the Government are throwing upon us must bring widespread discontent, and endanger the permanence of the confederation, and if disaster should overtake this Dominion, the charge will lie with the present Government. When the people realize the fact that after we shall have spent

seventy millions of dollars on construction, the country will have to vote eight millions of dollars annually for the operation of a road, where, for sixteen hundred miles little else can be heard but the mournful screech of the owl, or the echoes of the locomotive whistle in the solitudes of those mountains,—I say when the people of this country realize this fact, they will deeply regret the folly which they and their representatives have been guilty of, in supporting a Government which appears to be lost to all sense of responsibility, and who seem to think only of keeping themselves in power. A great public work may be carried out with wisdom or it may be carried out to produce great disaster. Our great inter-oceanic road should have been constructed with prudence, considering the present extent of our population, and the limited resources of the people, and it should have been built by the Government. Having said enough to prove the entire recklessness of the Government, would the House now kindly permit me to show one of the instances wherein the Government have inflicted wrong and injustice, and shown gross ingratitude. I refer to the wrong and injustice done to the Grand Trunk Railway by permitting the Canadian Pacific Railway to build, with the aid of Government subsidies, a competing line with the Grand Trunk Railway, through the Province of Ontario, with the view eventually of extending it to Chicago with moneys out of the public chest of the Dominion. When I became aware of the purpose of the Pacific Railway Company to operate a new line from Montreal, via Peterboro to Toronto, and from there west to St. Thomas, with a view of competing with the Grand Trunk for the trade with Chicago and the North-West, I could not but come to the conclusion that the Government's sense of justice and rectitude were things of the past. When we calmly ponder over all the benefits and services which the Grand Trunk Railway Company have rendered in developing the magnificent Province of Ontario and the country from Montreal westward, fostering the rapid growth of the cities of Montreal and Toronto, and in like manner every town and village along the line; while the farmers acknowledge that the value of