

of these questions, of disposing of all the difficulties in reference to the change of the original alignment to one which would be infinitely more valuable to the Dominion Government, by the present line through the Kamloops District, and for the settlement of the question of the amount that had already been appropriated by the Local Government out of the twenty mile belt on each side, of their line, for the purpose of meeting the question that had been so long and so strongly agitated by the Government of British Columbia in regard to the injury which that Province had suffered from the delay in carrying out the terms of union, it was decided to offer that Province the sum of \$750,000 towards the construction of the railway from Nanaimo to Esquimalt, to take over the graving dock, paying the expenditure of \$250,000 that had been made by the Government of British Columbia, and receiving from that Province a grant of 3,500,000 acres of land lying in the Peace River District, on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. That in substance is the proposal which is now submitted for the approval of the House. I may say, Sir, that as we were not able by telegraph to arrange in time, and satisfactorily, the legislation required on the part of the Dominion Parliament and the Legislature of British Columbia, my colleague, the Minister of Justice, was deputed to go to British Columbia, and to enter into arrangements with the Province, subject to the approval of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, and the approval of this Parliament, carrying out substantially the terms which had been recommended in the report to Council by my right hon. friend, the then Minister of the Interior, and myself, as Minister of Railways and Canals. That object, I am happy to say, was attained; the Government of British Columbia and the Minister of Justice were enabled to arrange with a company composed of one of the most influential and able capitalists of the city of Victoria, Mr. Dunsmuir, and a number of associates, some within, and others outside the Province, in the cities of San Francisco and New York, capitalists whom the Government of British Columbia believed to possess undoubtedly the means of vigorously carrying this work to completion. This contract was arranged and a deposit of \$250,000 by that Company was made satisfactorily to the Government of British Columbia, for the purpose of securing the prompt carrying out of this work. Under these circumstances the Legislature of British Columbia have passed an Act providing for carrying out the agreement entered into between the Minister of Justice, with the authority of the Government of Canada, and the Government of British Columbia, for the various purposes to which I have referred; and it is believed that if this Parliament assents, as I have no doubt it readily will, to the propositions contained in these resolutions, we shall have disposed once and for ever of all questions in regard to the past that have arisen between the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, and that we shall have provided for the prompt and efficient completion of a graving dock there at not a very great additional cost beyond that which was contemplated by the Government; that we shall have secured by means of the valuable tract of lands given by the Province of British Columbia, and the \$750,000 long ago offered by our predecessors to the Government of British Columbia in compensation for delays in connection with the progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway; I say it will be found that we will not only have secured that, but at the same time we will have acquired a very valuable tract of land lying to the east of the Rocky Mountains, adjacent to, and in connection with, our own prairie country, which can be settled and which can be administered and dealt with more effectively, I believe, by a Government on this side of the mountains than by the Government of British Columbia, on account of the barriers which those mountains interpose to communication between the two sections of the country.

I believe, Sir, that the proposals which are contained in the resolutions will commend themselves to this House as being wise and just proposals. I am sure we all recognize the great importance of the construction of a railway between Nanaimo and Esquimalt. It is well known that although it is somewhat rocky and precipitous, and, to a considerable extent, barren country, there are valuable coal mines contained within that area; and I have been told by some of our friends from British Columbia that they have objected to the terms of this proposal because it was handing over to a company the development of these mines. But it must not be forgotten that, valuable as are these coal areas in Vancouver Island, they have lain for a long time in a comparatively undeveloped state. With the exception of Mr. Dunsmuir's mine, and another one which has not been very successful, I believe that up to this moment, practically, very little has been done in developing those coal areas. We have reason to believe—in fact I am informed by the able Premier of British Columbia, who is now here, that he has applications for large tracts of coal mining areas believed to possess very valuable coal mines outside of the section that is covered by these resolutions. Under these circumstances, if the result of these proposals is to meet all possible grounds of complaint on the part of our fellow citizens in British Columbia, if at the same time by a contribution of a comparatively small sum it is to secure practically the carrying of the Canadian Pacific Railway down to the harbour of Esquimalt to the city of Victoria; if it is to secure the prompt and successful development of the great coal industries of that country, and if it is to secure the prompt completion of a valuable graving dock at the harbour of Esquimalt, I think the House will agree with me that the arrangements that are made commend themselves to the judgment of this House as they will, I am satisfied, commend themselves to the approval of the people of this country generally. I do not believe, Sir, that it is possible to over-estimate the enormous advantage to Canada, to say nothing of British Columbia alone, of the rapid and prompt completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Burrard Inlet and railway extension from Nanaimo down to the Harbour of Esquimalt, with the corresponding development of that country, and the completion of a great line of interoceanic communication. Although a large portion of British Columbia is of a mountainous character—I will not say a sea of mountains—but although it is somewhat of a mountainous character, we all know that there is a large amount of soil, even on Vancouver Island, of a very rich and valuable description. We all know that British Columbia is possessed of sources of inherent wealth in the minerals of that country that are of incalculable value. We all know that with the delicious climate of British Columbia, I use the term advisedly, not simply the delicious but I might also say the incomparable climate,—it only requires easy and ready means of access to attract hundreds of thousands of people at an early day to that country, where they will find every attraction which settlers or persons seeking homes in any part of the world can desire. We know that the rivers teem with fish; that the forests, and they are magnificent forests, abound with game; and all that is necessary to open up that country and give to Canada the advantage and benefit of the rapid development of that Province, possessing such great and inherent resources of wealth as it does, is by the terms provided in this resolution to carry down, not only the Canadian Pacific Railway to Burrard Inlet on the main line, as already provided for, but by opening up the island by this railway, to infuse the same amount of energy and enterprise in the development of that section of country as the main land will enjoy from the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Under these circumstances, Sir, I have no hesitation in commending these resolutions to the acceptance of this House as settling all those vexed ques-