

ancient Greece or Italy. He (Mr. DE COSMOS) candidly confessed that he believed Mr. EDGAR had indulged in a considerable flight of fancy, but it was perfectly true that the people of British Columbia knew their own business. The Order in Council said that the public feeling of the whole Dominion had been very strongly expressed against the fatal extravagance of the terms agreed to by the late Dominion Government. He would call the attention of the House to the extravagance. There were two well known parties who desired to build the Pacific Railway—one represented by Senator MACPHERSON, and the other by Sir HUGH ALLAN, one of which succeeded in getting hold of the charter. He (Mr. DECOSMOS) took a copy of that charter to San Francisco, and showed it to several capitalists and railway men there, and they assured him that for \$30,000,000 and 30,000,000 acres of land without any guarantee, they would be able to build the railway and pocket \$50,000,000 to boot. In reply to Mr. EDGAR's statement that the majority of the people of British Columbia were in favor of the proposal of the Government, he had simply to say that when he returned to British Columbia about the end of September, he found the universal feeling of the people to be that they could have no confidence in any terms offered unless made with the sanction of the Imperial Government. The late Government broke the terms they agreed to, and the present Government wished to relax or repudiate them and to tyrannize generally over the people. The hon. member for South Bruce was reported to have spoken at Aurora, had quoted from an Order in Council a certain portion of which he represented to be "If it be found absolutely necessary to secure a settlement." If the hon. gentleman made the quotation correctly, and was correctly reported, it would be noticed that it differed slightly from the despatch sent to the Imperial Government, for in that despatch, the word "present" was inserted before "settlement." The presumption therefore was that when the Order in Council came to be transmitted to the Imperial authorities, the Government found they had made a blunder and did the best they could to correct it. The hon. gentleman had also said that the construction of the road from Esquimalt to Nanaimo was compensation for the delay

Mr. DeCosmos.

in commencing the road. There was no foundation for saying anything of the kind. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech referring to the loan negotiated by him, said "morover, it would have placed us at a certain disadvantage with the Imperial Government and British Columbia if we had asked for an Imperial guarantee whilst there was any dispute between ourselves and that Province as to the construction of the Pacific Railway. For all these reasons I advised my colleagues, and they accepted the suggestion, that we should negotiate the loan on our own individual credit." The British Government knew that Canada had violated the compact with British Columbia, and the Finance Minister dare not ask for a loan on the Imperial guarantee while this Government failed to keep their agreement with the Province. The Finance Minister had admitted that the loan money was borrowed at sixteen shillings more on the hundred pounds than the loan negotiated by Mr. TILLEY, involving an annual loss of \$160,000 for thirty years, or \$4,800,000. This was the amount that the Dominion had lost by the simple blunder of daring to break terms that ought to have been observed. The Vancouver Island section, 160 miles long, could have been built for \$30,000 per mile, so that the country had lost the amount necessary for completing a line from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows through trying to relax the terms with British Columbia. The hon. member for South Bruce had endeavored to create a feeling of dissatisfaction throughout the country. Why did not the hon. gentleman express his opinions by resolution in this House instead of creating irritation among the people? The hon. gentleman had mentioned as something extraordinary that an additional engine would be required at one place on the line to haul trains up an ascent. The hon. gentleman evidently knew little or nothing of railroading or he would be aware that on some of the Western lines in the United States, two or three engines were required on some grades. Either the hon. gentleman knew nothing of railroading or he wished to delude the people into a belief that the road should not be built. It was stated in one Minute of Council that the proposal to build the Pacific Railway within ten years was adopted by this Parliament by a majority of only ten,