

the choicest sections of Wisconsin or Minnesota. Steps have already been taken to facilitate access to this distant territory, but measures are necessary to organize government there and to unite its fortunes with ours. I am persuaded that no time should be lost in the prosecution of this policy, the consummation of which is almost essential to the integrity of the Dominion. The future we claim for it is predicated upon its extension from ocean to ocean. The Atlantic and Pacific must be the boundaries of our Confederation, or the hopes we have cherished will be to a great extent destroyed. The loss of a single link will destroy the nation. The failure to keep the Red River District to ourselves—the failure to prevent its absorption into the United States by colonization with Minnesota—would inevitably damage the Dominion beyond redemption, and hence the extreme importance of hastening the solution of the northwest problem. The Intercolonial Railway project calls for no such speed. As an element in the Confederation, and a feature in the arrangement entered into with the Imperial authorities, we cannot divest ourselves of the responsibility incident to its construction. But though the terms of the Imperial guarantee are liberal, I am sure that the work will task our financial ability to the utmost, and therefore I favour great deliberation on the part of this Government at every stage. Commercially considered it is in no manner essential. Its necessity always must be as a means of strengthening the defensive power of the Dominion in the event of war. There is no reason, then for precipitancy. We can afford to proceed deliberately in the business. Nay, it is incumbent on us to advance with extreme caution, to examine carefully the advantages and disadvantages of the different routes, to scrutinize the claims of competing interests and localities, and to insist that the basis of the enterprise shall combine economy with efficiency. Do as we may, I fear the cost will exceed the guarantee; and sure I am that delay and caution are needed to prevent improvident expenditure. As to the military aspects of the work, I frankly confess that in providing for the peace and prosperity of the Dominion, I am inclined to place less dependence on armies and fortifications, and even on the Intercolonial Railway, than on the adoption of a wise domestic policy, and the cultivation of friendly relations with our neighbours. It is meet that we make some provision for the maintenance of order, as against Fenian marauders or irregular incursions of

any kind; but I shall require more cogent reasons than have yet been advanced before deciding that the young Dominion can advantageously aspire to the forms and outlays of a military power. We must have peace or all our statesmanship will come to naught; and I believe that we shall have peace if we pursue an enlightened and friendly policy, and address ourselves exclusively to our own business. Instead of expending millions on fortifications, I would complete our canal system and otherwise promote the material development of all the Provinces. I will not, however, enlarge upon this subject now, or further trespass upon your attention. I have attempted less to discuss questions minutely than to indicate the spirit in which, as a member of your honourable body, I enter upon my duties in this new stage of our country's history. And I indulge the hope that by combining the independence of character which is essential to legislative usefulness with the moderation which befits a Senate, we shall contribute our full share to the harmonious working and the ultimate success of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just, begged to inquire from the Government the reasons for the resignation of Hon. Mr. Galt.

Hon. Mr. Campbell said he had expected the inquiry to have been made before. There had been two resignations, that of Hon. Mr. Archibald, of Nova Scotia who could not find a seat, and that of Hon. Mr. Galt, who had given full explanation of the cause of said retirement in the other House. There had been nothing in the case of the resignation of the Minister of Finance in connection with the policy of the Government to occasion his resignation. He was in agreement with his colleagues as well in respect of their past as of their future policy, and only the exigencies of his own private affairs had induced him to withdraw. He felt he could not give to his own private business the attention which it urgently demanded, and at the same time bestow upon the important duties of his public office all the care they required. He would have avoided this step if he could, and though not in the Ministry, would continue to give them the benefit of his assistance.

Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just said he had been opposed to the scheme of Confederation, and had done what he could to prevent its adoption, but as it has become a *fait accompli* he considered it his duty to accept it and give such aid as might be in his power to enable it to work well. (Hear, hear.)