

of that antagonism is rapidly giving way, as the memories of old quarrels fade into the past; that the economical forces are everywhere sapping the barriers; and that so far, at least, as commercial interests are concerned, partnership, not rivalry, is our destined relation to our neighbours. This very enterprise, the grand Anti-Continental scheme, is committed for execution to a Syndicate, an important place in which is held by an American firm, while the basis and support of the whole combination is the proprietary of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Railway, an American line. Instead of perpetuating the complete severance, which Anti-Continentalists desire, a policy of vast enterprises, adding to the debt and increasing the embarrassments of the country, seems to us not unlikely to end in annexation on American terms; and when the opponents of such a policy are accused of Annexationism, if they care to bandy invectives instead of discussing commercial questions, they will not be without matter for a retort.

This, however, is not the point of view from which the Opposition is entitled to criticize the arrangement proposed by the Government. For there can be no sort of doubt that the Opposition, like the Government, has committed itself by its language, and still more by its acts, to the building of the whole line on the political and military principle, as a National and Imperial undertaking. The proofs of this fact have been produced and reproduced in the debates to satiety, and are present to everybody's mind. The Opposition before the late change in the leadership was the party of the *Globe*, and the late Managing Director of that journal was, in his closing years at all events, as Anti-Continental as it was possible for a Canadian to be. His paper advocated, with all its force, the immediate construction of the Pacific Railway. It is now in a state of oscillation, and holds language about the folly of proceeding with the unproductive portions of the road, which might be supposed to have been transferred from our pages. But less than a year ago, it was violently denouncing those who questioned the expediency of proceeding at once with the section of the road in the mountains