

Allow me to state on the floor of this House that he gave no pledges whatever. He commanded the sympathies of the people who elected him. Believing that a man of his large experience and influence ought to be in the Parliament of Canada. I for one voted for and supported him. But, Sir, we all felt and expected that the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues would carry out that policy which they had initiated when in office before; but I do not find anything in the Speech which warrants me in expecting that their policy of 1873 will be carried out. I recollect that, in a speech made by the hon. gentleman, not long ago at a banquet, he said he was elected without any pledge, and that, with God's help, he would meet the expectations of his constituents. I sincerely hope that declaration may be fulfilled, and it is for that object, that I draw his attention and the attention of his Ministers to his former policy, and with a view to taking action during this present Session that I raise this question. Without a railway running through Vancouver Island the interests of the people of that Island would be better served if they had joined the United States. Without such a railway, their interests are distinctly with the neighbouring republic. But, their sympathies being English, they preferred to sacrifice to a large extent their present pecuniary interests with the object of making the Confederation of Canada a reality. I hope that this Government will not pursue such a course as will keep up the irritation that now exists, an irritation that has only been partly allayed by the giving out of the contract for the Emory's Bar Section. The Legislature of our Province has not met for 1880, but I fully believe that, when that Legislature shall have met and the question of railways shall have come before it, it will again ask and insist that the agreement already made for the construction of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Section shall be carried out. If that arrangement is not carried out by this Government, I believe they will carry their appeals again elsewhere, and ask the aid of the Imperial Government to induce, if possible, the Government of Canada to carry out the agreement of 1874. I believe I have said enough to show the expectation of the people of Vancouver's Island, and I am of

opinion that none of the mainland constituencies would object to seeing that carried out. The members of the Local Legislature consider the Government of Canada should by all means build the road between Esquimalt and Nanaimo. The Board of Trade of British Columbia has recently forwarded here a certain preamble and resolutions in which they ask that the bargain made should be carried out. That board is not constituted of a class that is likely to be carried away by mere feeling; but, after duly considering all the bearings of the case, they have sent a circular here that I believe many members of this House have received. The fact that the Local Legislature is backed up by a body so influential, having most of the bankers and merchants in connection with it, ought to carry such weight at least as to induce this Government to take the matter into consideration and obtain a vote of this House for the building of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo line.

MR. BLAKE: I do not rise to join in the general debate, but there are two matters referred to in the Address to which it may be useful to direct the attention of the House for a few moments. The first is the proposal for the appointment of a representative of Canada resident in London. The Address states that "The increasing foreign trade of Canada and the prospect that Her Majesty's Government will enter ere long into negotiations with foreign nations on the subject of their trade and commercial relations, demand our closest attention and watchfulness." This is the primary reason given for the appointment of a resident representative. The second reason is apparently of a domestic character. The Address proceeds to state that "the rapid development of the Dominion is continually giving rise to important matters requiring the support and action of the Imperial Government." With reference to these two reasons for the appointment of a resident representative I have to say that, while I quite agree in the extreme importance of paying the utmost attention to the development of our foreign trade, I cannot reconcile with the true inwardness of the protective and restrictive policy adopted by the Government, any sincere effort of theirs toward the development of our foreign trade. Trade is exchange; and, if you want other