

good deal was prophesied that we should be ruined by competition one way and the other way, both by Canadian and by American railways, you will see we have not yet succumbed, though we admit fully the serious competition which has been brought to bear against us. (Cheers.) It has no doubt checked our improvement and delayed our progress, and kept down our rates, which is the most serious damage we could sustain ; but, as I have said before, we need not, even so, fear for the amount of traffic which we can command. It is only the shrinkage of rates and the un wisdom of cutting them down in useless and hopeless competition that we are powerless to avoid and avert. We are still in want of more engines and more cars, and long may that cry continue, because it means an always increasing traffic, and the one point to which we have to devote our earnest attention is still further to reduce our working expenses—(cheers)—so far as is consistent with true economy and with safety in carrying on our traffic. I have now, gentlemen, to move :—

“ That the report of the directors and the accounts for the half-year ended December 31, 1889, now presented, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted, and that the following dividends be paid—viz., to the holders of the four per cent. guarantee stock of £2 6s. per cent., making with the dividend of £1 14s. per cent. paid to the holders of the said stock for the half-year ended June 30, 1889, the full dividend of £4 per cent. for the year 1889, to the holders of the first preference stock of £2 7s. 6d. per cent.”

Mr. ROBERT YOUNG : I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BUTT : Mr. President and gentlemen, during last year I travelled over 2,000 miles of Canadian railways, and I should like to give you my impressions of what I saw. I travelled over the whole distance of the Grand Trunk line from Portland to Chicago, and over other parts of the line. At Portland you have a large property, good elevators, and every facility for carrying on a very