

it will pay its fixed charges it will take care of itself. But suppose that the earnings of this system fall short \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000, a population of 8,000,000 could be taxed one dollar a year for the common good of the country, and the shortage would be made up. The greater portion of Canada would be served by this system, and any earnings beyond the fixed charges would go back to the people in the way of further extensions and better service.

I will not take up the time of the House to say anything further. I have given my views as they have occurred to me, and I hope they will commend themselves to the members of this House.

Hon. H. J. CLORAN: Honourable gentlemen, the study of this Bill and its provisions, and of its effects on the welfare of the country, has involved recollections of the past in regard to similar matters of railway legislation. The Bill at the present stage of Canada's development is no stranger than the presentation of a similar Bill thirty-two years ago by the Government of Sir John Macdonald, when a similar enterprise, known to-day as the Canadian Pacific railway, made application to the people of Canada for loan of \$30,000,000. The Canadian Pacific Railway company had been abundantly supplied by the governments of the day, both Liberal and Conservative, with funds with which to build that railroad. From its very inception the Canadian Pacific railway, through its directors and its financial powers, had sufficient money to contribute to the election funds of the Conservative party in 1872. I think my right honourable friend the senator from Hastings (Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell) will remember the incident. At that time it was considered an important project for Canada, with a population of about 3,000,000 or 4,000,000, to build a transcontinental railway. But there were men at that time who were sufficiently courageous to undertake the project. They undertook it. That is a long time ago, but I remember it well. These courageous projectors had doubts about receiving the support of the Liberals at that time. To make sure that they would have true friends in the Government they started subscribing money to the Conservative election funds of 1872. Unfortunately for themselves, they had not subscribed a sufficient amount, and one fine afternoon, as polling day was coming on, the Prime Minister of the day wired Sir John Abbott—he was not Sir John then; there were very few sirs

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then—he wired John Abbott, "Another \$10,000 is required," and of course John Abbott, who afterwards became Prime Minister, although he had previously signed a requisition and demand for annexation to the United States, sent Sir John Macdonald the \$10,000, with the result that Sir John Macdonald was able to carry the election. Of course, at that time Sir John Macdonald did not have to buy Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and so on; all he had to buy was Ontario and Quebec, "those shreds and patches of Confederation," as Sir Richard Cartwright called them.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: What was the rate per head?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The House was in session only a few days when Lucius Seth Huntington rose to the floor of the House on a point of order. He said to the Prime Minister of the day: "You are holding a seat through corruption and by corrupt means." He was challenged to prove this. He risked his head. He made the charge on the floor of the House of Commons that the Government was taking money from the company to which the charter was granted to build this road. He was defied. He brought the charges forth. He produced the original documents and the original telegram of Sir John Macdonald himself to the attorney of the company, asking for \$10,000 more. What was the result? There was consternation in the camp in that famous session of 1873. How could it be possible? How did Lucius Seth Huntington get hold of the original telegram? How did he get hold of the correspondence? We all know. History, I suppose, has related it. He got hold of it through a clerk in the telegraph office. It was a question of thief finding out thief. Lucius Seth Huntington held the documents in his hands which finally destroyed the Government of Sir John Macdonald. It is wonderful how human phenomena will repeat themselves in the course of human events.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: What year was that?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The election which was stolen from the people of Canada was in 1872, and it was the first session after that—

Hon. Mr. TANNER: B.C. or A.D.?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: It was before you were born, I guess because you do not seem to know much. I was saying that it is strange how human phenomena will repeat