

land, and under the condition of things, were either forced to the mainland or to the American side. I think, if everything were investigated properly, we have a good case for a suit for damages. But, what were we told in the course of the Debate? The hon. member for West Durham, said, British Columbia was seduced into the Union.

MR. BLAKE: Oh, no.

MR. BUNSTER: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I will leave it to the *Official Debates*. I was sorry to hear such a remark, in the presence of ladies. Our Province has received so much abuse that we are getting tired of it. The only way that hon. gentlemen can become informed regarding its resources is to go to British Columbia, and to see things for themselves, and I will guarantee, that the country is as hospitable as any other part of Canada. British Columbia has been neglected shamefully. We have more natural resources than the whole of the rest of Canada put together. Our harbours are open and hospitable all the year round; they are never closed up as they are here. We have got mountains of gold, our rivers are teeming with fish, and any hunter can always go out and shoot down a deer or buffalo to maintain his family. But I have detained the House at some length, and I think the hon. member for Victoria (Sir John A. Macdonald), will be able to do greater justice to the cause of British Columbia than myself, I will, therefore, leave it now in his hands.

MR. LANGEVIN: When, eight or nine years ago, this question of the Pacific Railway came before the House, we all considered that it was one of the most important and weightiest questions that could require the attention of Parliament. That question has lost none of its importance, none of its weight or interest since that time. On the contrary, the people have attached more importance year after year, to this great work. This evening the question has acquired still greater importance, from the fact that the hon. member for West Durham proposes to postpone one of the most important portions of the Railway. I should say that the Pacific Railway question disappeared before another great question, which is, "Shall we continue to maintain this great Confederation of ours in its in-

tegrity?" The fact is, the proposal of the hon. member for West Durham, I suppose on behalf of the Opposition, is nothing else than repudiation. When British Columbia sent her delegates to settle the terms of Confederation with this Government, one of the conditions was that we should build the Pacific Railway. That condition was assented to by the Government of Canada. It was submitted to this Parliament and assented to. There may have been, on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite, some difference of opinion about the expediency of undertaking such a great work at that time, but the Act of Parliament was passed and became the law of the country, and hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House had only to bow to and obey the law. When the Government of 1873 left office, and the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, they did not repudiate that condition of the Confederation or Union of British Columbia with Canada. They went to work to execute that great undertaking, and the only point of difference that we saw amongst the members of that Government and their supporters was that, when the question of the Esquimault and Nanaimo Railway was proposed to the House, the hon. member for West Durham separating himself from his party, voted with a few friends against that measure, and the Government of that day were not powerful or willing enough to pass it in the Upper House. If the Government had only expressed a desire that that Bill should, pass against which the hon. member for West Durham had voted, it would have become law. But there was a power behind the Throne—a power that may still exist to-day behind the leader of the Opposition. That power was stronger than that Government, and the measure for the construction of the railway from Esquimault to Nanaimo was lost. Nevertheless, the Government of 1874 down to 1878, went on with the construction of that railway. They undertook a portion of the road from Thunder Bay towards the west, and another section further on, leaving a gap of 185 miles. If I am not mistaken, the hon. member for Lambton, who was then at the head of Government, called for tenders for those four sections in British Columbia, that the hon. member for West Durham has attacked so

MR. BUNSTER.