

who believe that the aggregation of boundless territories in different parts of the world, really or nominally under a single government, is the grand source of strength and happiness, while there are others who believe that more of both is to be obtained by multiplying the centres of political life. There are many good and able men who believe that it is possible and desirable to erect the straggling line of British possessions of the north of this Continent into an Empire, united in itself, antagonistic in spirit to the communities which adjoin it, identified politically with the British aristocracy, and destined to prevent the triumph of democracy on this Continent; while there are others who hold that such an undertaking is a mere fighting against the progress of humanity as well as against the physical ordinances of nature. We only mean to say that the object of the present policy is Imperial not Canadian; political not commercial. The special interest of Canada is treated as subordinate to that of the Empire; while commercial considerations are disregarded. This, right or wrong, is the plain fact.

Thirty-six millions have now been sunk in the Intercolonial Railway; no hope is held out that the road will ever pay: the utmost expected is a reduction of the outlay on it, and this, the Opposition maintains, is being brought about by a serious sacrifice of efficiency and repair. Nobody can doubt that this, at all events, is a political and military, rather than a commercial, work. The main objects were to secure a communication through British territory and a military road beyond the reach of the supposed enemy in the United States. Whenever the Intercolonial Railway is mentioned we are authoritatively informed that the suggestion came not from the Colonial office but from Canada. Knowledge of the sentiments and plans of the Colonial Office is not confined to this side of the water or to a single breast. But what does it signify whether the suggestion came from Imperialists in Downing Street or from Imperialists in Canada? It did not come from a quarter in which commercial considerations prevailed, or in which the special