

The sanctity of contracts demands that the legitimate rights of the promoters of this undertaking should be respected. There must be no repudiation. They shall not be put to any loss, but at the same time the country shall not be required to pay to them any prospective or speculative or unreasonable profits. If they see fit to join with the Government in driving this measure through parliament by the aid of an obedient majority, they must take that course with their eyes open, and with the understanding that the right of the people of Canada to a voice in so great an enterprise is not to be denied and shall not be disregarded.

Against the Grand Trunk Railway we harbor no ill-will. It is entitled to, and it shall receive the fullest justice at our hands. By that justice it shall receive such running rights over the extended Government lines as will give it complete and ample access to the Northwest. But these rights must be accompanied by stipulations adequately conserving and protecting the interests of our great national ports, the interests of our trade and commerce, the interests of our people.

Having said so much, I now move the following resolution, which is designed to express, in connection with those already moved, the policy which the Conservative party will carry out in attempting a solution of the great problem of national transportation. I move, seconded by Mr. Kemp.

That the Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be resolved:

That the Bill proposes to ratify and confirm agreements imposing upon the country enormous obligations for the construction of a Transcontinental Railway, a large portion of which is to become the property of a railway corporation, to whom the remaining portion is to be leased for fifty years on terms onerous to the country.

That the obligations undertaken by the country under the proposed agreements will provide almost wholly for the cost of constructing the proposed railway, while the obligation assumed by the Grand Trunk Railway Company is comparatively small.

The House is of opinion that instead of ratifying the proposed agreements it would be more in the public interest that the Dominion should assume the whole obligation necessary for extending across the continent the present government system of railways, thereby completing a transcontinental railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific entirely owned by and under the control of the people of Canada.