

the Recess of Parliament the Government were engaged in discharging the duty confided in them by Parliament, and which they directed them to carry out. The first Resolution reads as follows:

"1. Resolved,—That engagements have been entered into with British Columbia, as a condition of Union with Canada, that a line of railway to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific shall be constructed with all practicable speed."

"6. Resolved,—That in view of the importance of keeping good faith with British Columbia, and completing the consolidation of the Confederation of Provinces in British North America, and for the purpose of extending relief to the unemployed working classes of Great Britain, and affording them permanent homes on British soil; and in view of the national character of the undertaking, the Government of Canada is authorised and directed to use its best efforts to secure the co-operation of the Imperial Government in this great undertaking, and obtain further aid, by guarantee or otherwise, in the construction of this great national work."

This Resolution refers to the importance of securing the cooperation of the Imperial Government by guarantee or otherwise, and all I can say is that the Government did the best they could in that direction, and I think I have given the House some evidence that the seed sown is likely to bear fruit in due time. The seventh Resolution reads:

"7. That it is further expedient to provide:—That 100,000,000 acres of land, and all the minerals they contain be appropriated for the purposes of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway."

This was appropriated, and I need say nothing further in relation to the matter, after the exhaustive argument of the member for North Norfolk, who attacked the policy of the Government as to the mode in which they proposed to appropriate and utilise that hundred millions of acres of land; and the able and exhaustive reply he received from the right hon. the First Minister, who, I believe, convinced this House, as he must have convinced this country, that we have every reason to believe that that policy will be eminently successful. I need not discuss the question further, but say, that before Parliament rises it will be necessary to submit a Resolution confirming the mode in which it is decided by the Government to administer these lands a little more concisely than these Resolutions provide. It is not proposed, however, to depart from the policy

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we believe has been wisely adopted, and which will be found sufficient to thoroughly accomplish this work. The 10th Resolution reads:

"10. Resolved,—That the Government be authorised and directed to locate a portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, from the Red River, westerly, running to the south of Lake Manitoba, with a branch to Winnipeg. And, if they deem it advisable, to enter into contract for expending a sum not exceeding \$1,000,000 in constructing the said Railway without previously submitting the contracts to Parliament."

That power has been used, and before I sit down, I shall have occasion to explain to the House the position in which that matter stands. The 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th read:

"11. Resolved,—That it is expedient to make further explorations in the Peace and Pine River districts and other sections of the country not yet examined, in order to ascertain the feasibility of a line through the largest extent of fertile territory, before beginning the work of construction in British Columbia."

"12. Resolved,—That in the opinion of this House, the selection of the Burrard Inlet terminus was premature."

"13. Resolved,—That it is necessary to keep good faith with British Columbia, and commence the construction of the Railway in that Province as early as is practicable."

"14. Resolved—That the Government be authorised and directed to make such further explorations as they may deem necessary for the said purpose, and so soon as they have finally selected and located the line, to enter into contracts for constructing a portion of the same, not exceeding 125 miles, without the further sanction of Parliament, so that the work of construction may, at latest, be commenced during the present season, and thereafter be vigorously prosecuted."

I may say to the House that we fully appreciate the enormous expenditure involved in the construction of the line of railway to the Pacific coast by the Burrard Inlet route. All we asked was authority to make explorations with the view of seeing if we could not connect the Pacific shores with the fertile district of the North-West, by passing through a more hospitable country.

MR. BLAKE: Not inhospitable.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I will recall that, as I have a vivid recollection of what the hon. gentleman has been made to suffer for having used that word before. The Government, acting in good faith, and believing that if they could facilitate the progress of the work in British Columbia, and find a shorter and easier line