

MR. MACKENZIE: Well, I certainly understood so. I have taken down the words of the hon. gentleman. He said that we were bound to keep our Indians from their territory, and they ought to keep their Indians out of ours.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: No, I said that by constitutional law adjoining countries were bound to prevent incursions over the border upon a neighbouring country; but, of course, this is an exceptional case, because neither the United States nor Canada could have control over these Indians.

MR. MACKENZIE: Yes; but this was not a hostile incursion at all. This was a flight of fugitives from justice, perhaps, but they were simply fugitives after a hard fight with the United States troops; and I would no more think of using the official power of Canada to prevent them from seeking an asylum in our country, than I would in former days have prevented fugitive Negroes from receiving an asylum in this country. Canada is subject to these incursions at all times; and, if it really does impose a serious burden upon us and cause us uneasiness, still it is better that we should preserve our proverbial hospitality to fugitives of every kind. But I quite admit that it was desirable a representation should be made to the United States Government concerning the coming of these people into our territory. That representation was made in the regular way, through the British Minister at Washington, and I am bound to say, as the Speech says, that the United States Government made a friendly and I may say a zealous, although undoubtedly an unsuccessful, effort to have these Indians removed to their reservations. These Indian Chiefs were warned that it would be quite impossible that we should allow them to make our territory a base of operations against the United States, but that, if they remained peaceable, we should not refuse them that asylum which they sought, believing that they were safe only upon our territory. At the same time, it is undoubtedly desirable in the interests of both nations, and in the interests of the Indians on both sides of the border, that they should remain

in their own territory—that our Indians should remain within our own boundaries, and that their Indians should remain within their own boundaries. Our Indians have remained within our own boundaries, and we have been compelled to concentrate a larger portion of our police force in the immediate vicinity of these poor fugitives in order to ensure respect for our national obligations. I am bound to say that up to this moment—and I say it with a great deal of pleasure—these American Indians have fairly understood the duties devolving upon them as citizens of another country, and that so far we have had no reason to complain of any overt act of theirs against those whom they consider their hereditary enemies. Now, Sir, with regard to the Pacific Railway paragraph, the hon. gentleman takes exception to it, that we ought to have been able to state at the present moment to the House whether we have chosen any route, and what that route is. The hon. gentleman will observe that the language is very guarded. I have stated there explicitly that “the additional information now obtained”—that is, it is obtained by the engineers, but the engineers have not been able to place the whole of that before us up to the present time, and probably two or three weeks will elapse before it is possible to present the whole features of the survey of the routes examined last year in such a shape as would justify the Government in coming to a final decision; and I am sure that I must command the sympathy even of the hon. gentleman when I say that it would be a great misfortune for the Government to be too precipitate, or, until they have the fullest possible information before them, to make a final decision on a matter so important to British Columbia, and so important to the interests of the Dominion. I have no doubt we shall be able, long before the House rises—that is my impression at present,—to lay not merely the information before the House, but also the final decision of the Government on the question. I trust this is all that any hon. gentleman will reasonably ask at our hands. The hon. gentleman says that depression is not passing away; that he sees no signs