

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE CROW'S NEST SOUTHERN RAIL- WAY QUESTION

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WHEN Canadian Pacific boosters commence to sing patriotic songs it is time for the government to bury its land titles in the horse lot and cache its coin down the well. A hold-up is coming sure, and the country will certainly suffer if there is anything negotiable in sight that the raiders can carry away. Just now the C.P.R. is wildly patriotic in several places. Its loyalty agents at Ottawa are terribly agitated lest James J. Hill and other alien railroaders should get into the Crow's Nest and carry away coal over roads that do not belong to the C.P.R.

The suspicion is gaining ground that the C.P.R.'s loyalty is not the real thing. Some folks are cruel enough to suggest that distinguished harlots are play-acting patriotism for what there is in it. The corporation and an appropriation furnishes the corporationists with a chorus, the din of which may drown East Kootenay's request for a coal market and smother the Boundary's prayer for competition.