

extend to 100 odd miles in various directions. I believe the contractors will do their best to fulfil the conditions of the contract for building the road, and that the Government will urge them vigorously to secure its completion. But, representing the feeling of British Columbia in the section in which I live, I must state that there is a very strong opinion, indeed, that the Government has not acted wisely in giving foreigners the contract for the construction of the road. The feeling is that this action is hardly in accordance with the National Policy designed to protect our own people. Any profits made by them will pass out of the Dominion to the United States and China. It is also believed that those foreigners will derive further benefits from the road by influencing their employés to purchase their supplies from certain traders, and thus get a trade monopoly, and under the circumstances, the general trade of the country will not be benefited. I believe the wisest course would have been to have given the contracts to our own people, so that if any profit arose directly to the contractors, it would have remained in the country. The next point in connection with the selection of this section is that the river has been frozen over for eighty miles up thus preventing any approach to Emory's Bar. For one month and over no steamboat has left Westminster and reached Yale. I was frozen up sometime in the month of December, and the last newspapers I have received do not show that any steamer had reached Yale. The highest they could reach was about forty miles from Emory's Bar. Our people fully expected that the Government would do something towards the construction of that portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo. It was competent under the vote of the House for the Government to have put under contract sixty miles of that road, but it appears that the Government, for reasons which, I hope, they will be able satisfactorily to explain, did not place sufficient weight on the agreement made between British Columbia, Great Britain and Canada to induce them to do so. In 1872 I asked the present Minister of Public Works whether, if the Government selected the route by way of Burrard Inlet

and Fraser River, they would build the line between Esquimalt and Nanaimo and consider it as an integral part of the Canadian Pacific Railway. That hon. gentleman rose in his place and stated distinctly, on behalf of the Government as well as for himself, that it would be so considered and done. In 1873, the Government, led by Sir John A. Macdonald sent to our Province an Order-in-Council asking that we would reserve a twenty mile belt of land from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows. That was done, and the reserve has been continued from that day to this. At the same time, Sir John A. Macdonald sent out an Order-in-Council declaring Esquimalt the terminus. A further Order came also to the Chief Engineer in charge, instructing him to break ground for the Pacific Railway. That was done at Esquimalt when I and some others were present. A change of Government took place, and, in the autumn of 1874, the hon. gentleman who now leads the Opposition agreed with Great Britain and British Columbia that a road should be constructed between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, and that, as soon as possible afterwards, \$2,000,000 a year should be expended on the construction of the road on the main-land. I believe the hon. gentleman was in earnest and honestly determined to build that section of the road. He sent rails there. He sent surveyors there, and passed a Bill through the House, and it was only thrown out through a coalition of Conservatives with some of the Liberal party in the Upper House.

MR. HOLTON: And some British Columbians.

MR. DECOSMOS: There may possibly have been one—at least only one that I am aware of—the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, and possibly not him. I am satisfied that the Hon. Mr. Macdonald was not one of those who voted for it, and I do not think the late Senator Carroll voted with the coalition. The leader of the Opposition not having control of that body, as the Conservative party has, he was to that extent excused for not pushing that work on. Now the leader of the Government was elected in Victoria. It had been stated broadcast that he had made pledges to the people of Victoria before he was elected that he would build the road, and that he would do this and that.

MR. DECOSMOS.