

taking some considerable time to examine it, he gave it to me as his opinion, and as a very conservative estimate which he supported by very ample proof, that in all human probability the construction of the Crow's Nest Railway under the Government subsidy of \$3,300,000 had resulted in developing wealth to the extent of thirty or forty millions in the region which was then opened. (Cheers.) He went on to show—and this is of importance, ladies and gentlemen, to all of you—by constructing that railway we had developed industries from which at this present moment something like three or four millions are being expended in wages and in the purchase of necessaries for enterprises which could by no possibility have been developed unless this Crow's Nest Railway had been constructed; and I have in my hand here very ample evidence that so far as the revenues of Canada are concerned we at least have been no losers, but, on the contrary, very great gainers, by the amount which we sunk in that railway.

A Paying Investment.

Our capital charge on this \$3,300,000 amounts roughly to some \$80,000 or \$90,000. Sir, the return that we get in added customs duties, and in added excise duties is, in all human probability, a matter of \$500,000 or \$600,000 a year from that source alone—(cheers)—and probably in three or four years, or five at the utmost, the added receipts to your customs and excise arising from the construction of that same railway will amply recoup you for every farthing that has been spent. Now, I call that good political economy. (Hear, hear.) I call that a wise expenditure. I say that if I am able to spend \$90,000 and put \$500,000 or \$600,000 a year into the treasury I do a good thing for the people of Canada. (Cheers.) I only wish it were possible for us to invest, not three millions, but thirty millions of your money equally profitably, and if I could I would do it to-morrow. (Hearty cheers.) Why, sir, within three years the revenues of British Columbia, for customs alone, have risen from about a million to two and a-quarter millions, and, although a large share of that is undoubtedly due to the development of the Klondike, a very large share of it, as our customs returns sufficiently show, is due to the expansion of Rossland and the Kootenay country and the rest of the regions that have been opened up by the Crow's Nest Pass. Why, sir, to-day the excise revenue in Rossland and Nelson alone would more than pay the interest on the capital that has been expended by us in constructing

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