

THE RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

QUEBEC'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

SPEECH OF THE HON. J. A. CHAPLEAU.

The following is the Hansard report of the speech of the Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Secretary of State, on the railway resolutions:—

Mr. Speaker,—I will not undertake to answer all the questions that have been raised in this debate by the hon. leader of the opposition. According to his custom, he has included in the discussion of the subject on which we are engaged the whole range of questions which it comprises, and has dealt with them in a manner no less lucid than comprehensive. I will leave to those of my colleagues to whom that task belongs to reply to the charge of undue pressure exercised by the government, according to the hon. member for West Durham, on the representatives of the Province of Quebec. I would, nevertheless, inform my hon. friend that he has revealed only one aspect of that period so full of anxiety, and I will try and show him what the other is. It is true, the hon. member, "the government awaited with anxiety, when the great Pacific question came before the house, the attitude which a portion of the members would assume regarding it. Everyone was asking what would happen; parliament was not sitting with its ordinary number of members, and the *dénouement* was anxiously expected. After interviews between the ministers of the Quebec Government and the members of that province—after interviews between the heads of the Canadian government and the representatives of the Province of Quebec—the result was announced. Faces brightened up, peace was restored to the camp, and the Pacific bill was voted." My hon. friend should have said that it was on the side of the opposition that the faces of members betrayed most anxiety. The smallest rumours that escaped through closed doors were eagerly caught up, and whatever secrets were thus exposed were immediately transmitted by telegraph, corrected and enlarged to the great organ of the liberal party in Ontario. On one occasion

that journal announced that the members of the Province of Quebec had thrown themselves into the open arms of the leader of the opposition who, in return, promised them an era of prosperity before unheard of in that province. But the *dénouement* soon destroyed that hope; the loan was voted and the faces of the opposition fell accordingly. It is a wonder the *Globe* did not come out in mourning the next day, as if for the loss of a political friend. Certainly its cherished dream had faded away into thin air. For the fact is that all those conjectures were false. The conservative party had remained faithful and united as in the past. The leader of the opposition may be assured that the Quebec conservatives were unanimous in following the government on that great question. It is true that a certain number of members had asked that all the questions connected with the Pacific should be settled at the same time, and it was quite legitimate for them to enquire if the government had the intention, not to purchase their votes, but to make good a claim which had been made constitutionally by the Quebec cabinet and which had already been for several days before the Privy Council.

THE QUEBEC CLAIMS.

What! Mr. Speaker, will the hon. chief of the opposition deny that the Quebec members had a right to ask just treatment for the province that they represent? Do such rights belong only to the other provinces? Did not British Columbia submit to the government the questions in which it was concerned, and who hesitated to acknowledge its right to ask if the government had given them due attention, and had come to a decision regarding them? Did not the *Globe* cry out indignantly because the grievances of Manitoba had not been definitely redressed when the hon. premier of that province left Ottawa for Win-