

and safely laid away in a convenient pigeon-hole and forgotten. How all the governments concerned (Provincial, Dominion and Imperial), must have blessed that negligent clerk. I have not had time to search and ascertain if he ever received due reward and proper pension for this unfaithful performance of duty.

With Sir John A. Macdonald again in office, the air seemed clearer. No more talk of secession. Nobody enquiring about the whereabouts of that resolution. In May, 1879 on the motion of Doctor (afterwards, Sir Charles) Tupper, the House of Commons resolved that it was necessary to keep good faith with British Columbia and commence the construction of the railway in that province as soon as practicable. Mackenzie's selection of the Fraser valley route was cancelled at the request of Vancouver Island—Sir John A. Macdonald was sitting for Victoria—the old Island vs. Mainland dispute once more. Further surveys were ordered. The result was that in October, 1879, the Macdonald government agreed to accept the route selected by Mackenzie in May, 1878, and to call for tenders for the construction of the same portion of the road for which Mackenzie over a year before had asked tenders. Thus the net result in this instance of the local squabble was to set back actual construction for over a year.

From this time forward it was a case of construction, engineering questions, and finance.

**LITERARY NOTES**

(Concluded from page nine)

the Province of Manitoba for use in the schools and may also be adopted by the city schools in Winnipeg as a textbook for junior grades. It is attractively illustrated by cuts of the different animals described, many of them by the well-known artist, Harry Rowntree.

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