

House.” (*Ministerial cheers.*) I say I might read you a series of resolutions, all made by hon. gentlemen opposite, and voted for by them, showing that in their opinion we had been overtaxing the resources of the people of Canada.

I am now told by hon. gentlemen opposite that, although they opposed that arrangement with British Columbia, they think they are bound to it now. I am told that they say, “True, we made an arrangement with British Columbia which was improvident, extravagant and ruinous, and which could never be carried out. Yet, being made, we will carry it out.” I don’t exactly see the logic of that. If it be ruinous, extravagant and impossible, I really don’t see how it can be carried out now. (*Cheers.*) But, Mr. Speaker, I don’t believe the policy of the hon. gentlemen opposite is in favour of that. (*Loud cheers.*) I know it is opposed to that. (*Renewed cheers.*) I know if this Government goes out of office and another Government comes into power, if it be composed of hon. gentlemen opposite, that it will oppose our policy in this question. (*Ministerial cheers.*) Hon. gentlemen opposite dare not deny that the *Globe* newspaper announces and directs their policy.

We passed a bill the session before last; we granted a charter for the building of the road, and it was settled and determined that the Pacific Railway should be built, and we were to build it on our own territory, and not allow the Yankees to come in and assist the hon. member for Vancouver (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks). Yet what was the announcement of the organ of the hon. gentlemen opposite? After the Legislation of 1872, after we had accepted the arrangement with British Columbia, after we had brought them into the Dominion on the pledge of the faith of the Government and the country, that there would be a Pacific Railway within ten years, after we had made that promise, with the solemn sanction of the country, what were the remarks of the *Globe*, the exponent of the opinions of hon. gentlemen opposite?

The right hon. gentleman then read an extract from an article, published in the *Globe* during 1873, wherein the Pacific railway scheme was declared to be financially ruinous and politically unpatriotic; a scheme which could only be accomplished within the ten years at an outlay which would cripple Canadian resources, and lock up the most valuable part of our public domains.

Now Mr. Speaker, you see what is to happen if Canada builds this Canadian Pacific railway. All our resources are to be crippled by this, the most ruinous and most unpatriotic scheme ever invented, and this cry I had to meet at the hustings. I have gone on from one stage to another. I have shown you how I met the cries of the hustings—that I had bartered away Canadian rights in the Washington treaty, that I had granted too much to Nova Scotia; that I had been guilty of granting a constitution to a few half-breeds in the North-west country, and had given them infinitely more than they had a right to expect; that as regards British Columbia, I would throw away the resources of Canada upon the construction of the Pacific Railway, and that I had sold Ontario. (*Ironical cheers from the Opposition.*)

Mind you, Ontario considers itself the richest Province, and no doubt it is, and that any additional charge placed in the public Treasury presses unfavourably on them, because they pay more in proportion to their wealth than the other Provinces of the Dominion. I know they don’t do so, but it has been urged upon them that they do so.

Then again, we had to meet the continued opposition of the Local Government of Ontario. I will give the hon. gentlemen proofs in writing, so that they will not be able to deny the fact—proof that though that Local Government had pledged itself in the most formal manner to be neutral in the contest; that they, by every act in their power, and by every influence direct and indirect that they possessed, worked against the Canadian Government. That is the charge and I can prove it. (*Ministerial cheers.*) We knew that influences of every kind would be used and were used, which can be proved, or as the hon. member for Shefford (Hon. Mr. Huntington) would say, “I am credibly informed and can prove,” (*laughter*), and we believed that the future of Canada much depends upon the continuing in power of a Government that has for its one single aim and object the maintenance of the connection between Canada and the British Empire, and the promotion of the development of the Dominion itself. (*Cheers.*)

We have been met at the polls with sectional cries. If the Opposition could raise a religious cry it was done. The New Brunswick school question was brought up, and they got up the cry that we had given too much to Nova Scotia, and those cries were made to ring at the polls in Western Canada. The cry that we had given too much to British Columbia was hammered into us at every public meeting in the west, and I say distinctly, and I repeat it again, that we had the power, influence, and the weight of the Ontario Government against us, contrary to the distinct pledge that the Government would be neutral. (*Cheers.*)

Well, Sir, I will state now what occurred with respect to the Pacific Railway. I was at Washington bartering my country as some of the hon. gentlemen say, (*laughter*) attending at all events to the Washington treaty, when the resolutions were carried which happily I say for Canada, brought British Columbia into the union of the British North American Provinces. (*Cheers.*) The proposition included the Pacific Railway, for British Columbia would not have come in, unless the terms of the union had included a railway. Notwithstanding great opposition the resolutions were carried by my late honoured and lamented colleague, but he only carried them by promising to introduce resolutions by which the railway would be built, not by the Government directly, but by private capital, aided by Government grants.

I would not, if I had been here, have willingly assented to that proposition, but though I was not here yet I am responsible for that act, and I do accept it as perhaps the best proposition to be had; otherwise, perhaps, the Union would not have been consummated. The resolutions declared that the Railway should be built by a Railway Company assisted by Government grants of land and