

one side, and the mineral wealth on the other, we should see substantial reasons for making this railway, the dream of Canada, and it must be realised before Canada can be the country we hope to see it. (Hear, hear.)

Captain J. C. R. COLOMB, R.M.A. : With regard to the wheat and the animal products of Canada, I think it might be useful to notice some considerations. We have heard a good deal about the local interests of Canada with respect to these ; we have heard of the vast plains capable in one way or the other of great development and their influence upon the many millions of people that can be accommodated there in the future. I would wish to draw attention to the state of affairs as they appear to me to affect the United Kingdom at the present time. Any question that turns upon the production of wheat, or of the means of human sustenance, must be one of importance to every inhabitant of these islands. I will give one fact which may bring this more vividly before you. In the seven years ending in 1840, the total foreign importation of wheat into this country was six million quarters. If you take seven years ending 1877, you will find that we required 370,000,000, quarters : you will see that by the last statistical return, which has been a very remarkable document, brought out last month and furnished to the Government of Washington. If we come to Canada alone, we find that in 1873 the total value of wheat she gave us from all sources and kinds of exports was \$38,700,000. If you analyse the articles supplied by the Dominion, you find that more than one-half were articles of food necessary for the people of this country. There were the produce of the fisheries and the animals and agricultural products. And if you take the year 1877, you will find it very much the same, and observe a remarkable increase in the quantity of animal produce introduced into this country. Therefore, I think, that this Pacific Railway, and everything that concerns the development of that region, putting aside all other questions, is surely a matter that does vitally concern not only Canada, but the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) I was much struck on reading in the papers the other day a letter from Sir Samuel Baker. I am not going to trespass upon political or military grounds with reference to the present crisis ; it drew attention to the important fact of the dependence of this country for its grain. What Sir Samuel called the natural granaries of the earth he represented to be chiefly in the neighbourhood of the Danube and in the United States ; and, having shown the great necessity of keeping open our means of communication with such places, he pointed out that in certain events we should be in great