

vored to make a personal matter of this question, and had alluded to certain alleged motives for bringing it before the House. He thought the hon. gentleman should have rested the case on its own merits, which was the only matter which the House should consider. He went on to comment upon the facts connected with the formation of a new company. The Government had failed to make any arrangements with two incorporated companies, and they had formed a new one in a way which, to say the very least of it, was very unusual. They found that the leader of the Government, representing one side, had signed for two parties representing the other side of the contract, so that in fact the hon. gentleman represented both parties. It turned out that the leader of the Government had no written power of attorney for attaching the signatures of these gentlemen, and yet these signatures were attached to a contract, the carrying out of which involved an enormous expenditure to this country. He would ask hon. gentlemen if that was a proper way of dealing with the affairs of this country? He would put the question if ordinary business precautions had been taken in this case? No man, he contended, could view it in that light, unless he were blinded by a desire to sustain the men now in power. Under the circumstances it was very extraordinary that when this power of attorney was exercised by the Premier, there existed no written authority for it; yet, according to the arguments of gentlemen opposite, the House must declare itself satisfied with that way of dealing with the affairs of the country, but there was not a single gentleman on the other side of the House who would permit his own private affairs to be conducted in the same way. They were told that the parties forming this Company were men of high standing. He was quite free to say that some of them were not men of standing. There were two men who figured in that list of shareholders, to the amount of \$76,000 each, who to his knowledge were not worth \$4,000; yet, notwithstanding this knowledge of facts, the House was asked to declare it was quite satisfied with everything that had been done, and no enquiry should be permitted. But supposing every possible precaution had been taken to protect the public interest, it would still be a satisfaction to the country, and it should be to the Government, to grant this committee in order that the fact might be established. The very fact that the Government resisted this enquiry would tend to increase the

suspicion which now prevailed. However, he knew that the whole thing was in the hands of the Government, and that they could control this House. The standing of the Liberal party in the House was not what it ought to be. They had not received that consideration at the hands of the Government which they were entitled to by the agreement entered into at the time of Confederation. Every appointment that had been made since then had been made from the Government side, and yet the Premier had distinctly promised at the time of Confederation that both parties should be fully recognized in the appointments to the Senate. Now they were told that this only referred to the first appointments. The Government had been able to control this House, and might thus refuse this Committee of Enquiry, but for that they would be judged by the country. He did not believe that this country would become bankrupt even under the management of a bad government, because he believed that the resources of this country were strong enough not only to overcome mismanagement, but to overcome the extravagance of the Government, and meet very large expenditure which was being incurred, and to fulfil the pledges to which this country was committed. He was satisfied that additional taxation would have to be resorted to; in that way bankruptcy might be avoided, but the people would have to bear the burden. Last year, when the Pacific Railway Act was before this House, the Opposition had contended that we should be in possession of more information before we undertook so great an enterprise, but they were told that the Government were in possession of very important documents from Sandford Fleming and others, and that next session they would be laid before the House, and it would be found they contained all the needed information. He would like to know where these reports were now. They had never been laid before Parliament, and this day Parliament was quite ignorant of the true condition of the country through which this railway was to pass, and yet, when this House asked for a Committee to enquire into the matter and supply that information they required on the subject, they were refused it, and were informed they must rely entirely upon the Government. He would ask if this House thought that a proper mode of dealing with a question that would involve the expenditure of millions of dollars yearly. Surely the House had a right to know all the facts connected with so vast an undertaking, but they now