

seemed so fresh and full of life and vitality a year ago has actually become forgotten lore. Why, Sir, I forget whether twenty or thirty amendments were drafted by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blake). He will not say to me that he did not draft all these amendments. The hon. gentleman will not say that in the discharge of his duty as the leader of the Opposition he did not do so. I think that some hon. gentleman referred to an hon. gentleman as having been put up on this side of the House, because an important question was moved by him; but, Sir, I will ask the hon. gentleman if he did not put up twenty members on that side of the House last Session to move resolutions which were all drafted by himself, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the House, and, as was assumed, of reaching the attention of the country; but what is the fact to-day, Sir. From that day to this so occupied and interested has the country become in the rapid progress of this work, and in a rapid expansion of the country under its influence and development, that these resolutions have been utterly forgotten and if any gentlemen was asked on the other side of the House to recite one of them, I am quite certain it would puzzle him as much as it would puzzle some persons to recite the Lord's Prayer, and if some one of these hon. gentlemen was called upon for instance,—I would not be a bit surprised if I called upon the member for North Elgin to do so, if he commenced the recital by saying "Now I lay me down to sleep." Certainly these resolutions have all been laid down to sleep; and after having slept, they are now in a perfectly lethargic position,—consequently if I now stir them up a little, I am sure that the hon. gentlemen who spent so much time and ingenuity, will not blame me if I refer to them; and I may say that the manner in which some of these resolutions were drafted, reflects a great deal of credit on the hon. gentleman's head, whatever may be said of his heart. Well, Sir, what is the first resolution with which I think the hon. member for Westmoreland was entrusted. It was that the said resolution be not now read a second time, but that it be resolved, that in the opinion of this House tenders should be invited for the construction and operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway before Parliament is asked to ratify any contract for the same. Well, Sir, if ever a resolution which an hon. gentleman proposed in the presence of this House, exposed him to the imputation of being a Rip Van Winkle, and a man who had slept for years and did not know what was going on, certainly it was the character of this resolution. Did not the hon. gentleman know that tenders had been asked for, and that the Government of