

way, and are therefore free to turn our undivided energies and attention to the task of enlarging and improving our canals and constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway. We have succeeded in making such arrangements with British Columbia as, although involving us in very considerable liabilities, are yet quite within our power to perform; and I may add that, although many of us thought from the beginning that the demands made upon us by that Province were unreasonable and unduly onerous, we are nevertheless prepared to discharge our obligations fairly, provided they can be brought within due bounds, and in accordance with the spirit, if not indeed the true letter of that contract. I have no doubt, therefore, that, if we persevere in the course I have indicated, in a very short time we shall be in a position of the highest credit. Still, for the next ten years we must be prudent, and we ought not to rush into other engagements until we have fairly disposed of those for which we are already responsible, though, with this proviso, I am well convinced that unless some entirely unexpected misfortune overtakes the commerce of the country, (for which we cannot reasonably look), we shall be able, financially, to give an honourable account of ourselves in the future. One thing we may fairly say to our people, that the sacrifices which we are called upon to make, are not being undertaken for any selfish local object, but in the largest sense in the future interest of the whole of the Provinces of the Dominion. We have chosen to take upon ourselves a truly Imperial task—a greater task than was ever undertaken by any nation of our age and resources—that of colonizing and developing a most enormous extent of country, not so much for our own benefit as that of generations yet to come. That such an enterprise is one which will require our utmost energies I do not for one moment deny, but although I admit this, and admit also that while engaged in its prosecution we must be willing to forego other works of much greater immediate advantage, yet I hold that it is far better we should do so than even seem to fail in meeting the obligations to which I have referred. I believe that every man who has paid any serious attention to the future of Canada knows right well that with us this matter is a struggle for the possibility of carving out a distinct national existence. This, at any rate, is an object for which we may well call upon our people for any reasonable sacrifice, and it will be at once the desire and the interest of the Government to take care that such sacrifices as may be

inevitable
it is as
strength
undergo
ever ad
though
desolati
present
these v
pursuad
satisfac
they ar
reasona
House
MAJEST
been lis

As s
the incu
with th
tariff, i
this sub
1st.
2nd.
therefor
various
As r
total vo