

allow the Hudson's Bay Company to create fresh obstacles in our path.

**Mr. Anglin** said the impression had been that it was not the serious intention of Government to proceed with this scheme at once. It would be recollected that it was only proposed to go on with it when the finances of the country would permit. This had been the theme of all the delegates in the Lower Provinces. We had no knowledge of what our financial position was, and he doubted if the Government knew. As to the idea of the territory being in danger of being absorbed by the United States if we delayed action, he said surely a great power like Great Britain would not permit its absorption except to such parties, and in such a manner as she approved of. When one Province had been brought in against its will, and was asking to go out, was not the time to be talking of acquiring new territory. His constituents were strongly opposed to the measures, and he thought it should at least be delayed that it might have fair consideration. If the Government pressed it he feared it would be carried, but it was the duty of the Government to repress rather than to encourage the extravagance of their followers. If they did not do so, the dissatisfaction now existing would be greatly increased.

**Hon. Mr. Cartier**, who rose after a pause and cries of "question," referred to the large sum recently paid by the United States for the late Russian possessions, and in reply the arguments drawn from the proposed heavy expenditure on the Intercolonial line, said that the increase in wealth consequent thereon would quadruple the cost, and that for the twenty millions expended there would be an enhancement of real estate value equal to one hundred millions. He asked were we to grudge the paltry sum of five or six million dollars to extend this Dominion to British Columbia. The policy of the United States, which had been referred to, immediately adopted on their becoming a nationality, had been the acquisition of fresh territory—Louisiana first and Texas more recently. If such a policy were necessary for them, it would be also necessary for us. When it became known in Europe that so large a territory, able to support, as had been proved by the Minister for Works, so many millions, we would see the effect produced upon the tide of immigration to our shores. Our country would be then as attractive as the United States, which derived its prestige mainly from its immense extent. The acquisition

ought to excite no internal jealousy, and it would increase the importance of the whole Dominion, and not, as the representatives of Quebec well know, that of Ontario only. The English Government were quite ready to transfer the territory to us, having had sufficient experience in government by companies. The Hudson's Bay Company had, however, discharged its duties to the Indians in a way to entitle it to honourable recollection. But the Company would have no grounds for complaint in a simple change of masters.

**Mr. Chipman** asked were all the inhabitants of this territory willing to come into the Union, or were they to be dragged in against their will also? Were the people of the Dominion willing to receive all these Indians and others? It seemed that the Government had nothing to do but to say to this man come! and he cometh. (Laughter). He did not profess to be a politician, but he was a commercial man, and he knew how a man overwhelmed with debt, and swamped by every kind of difficulty, if he were to propose the purchase of extensive property, would be looked upon. He would oppose the proposal which, if carried, would, he supposed, be followed by the annexation of the United States. (Laughter.)

**Mr. Simpson** defended the Hudson's Bay Company from the charge of neglect to the Indians, and spoke of the climate of the North-West Territory as being equal to any part of Canada he had ever known. It was necessary to take possession of the Red River country for the protection of the Northern shores of Lake Superior, the part of the country from which he had come, and which had been too much neglected. He asked why we did not pay for our public works in these wild districts, as the United States did, in the grant of our wastelands, which would never otherwise be settled. The North-West country abounded with untold mineral wealth, and yet we had not one mine, or any enterprise established there, except that of one small steamer supported by the subsidy of a small mill. The honourable member gave an interesting account of the Indians of the far West, with whom he had been familiar from boyhood, and whom he characterized as quite incapable of receiving civilization. He believed, despite of the Missionary reports which go out year after year, that they were now no nearer Christianity than when Missionary efforts first began, and this he attributed partly to the unseemly competition