

all obligations, says in effect: "All that remains for the Dominion to do is to carry out the terms of Union with British Columbia in the way that will best suit her, and at the time which will best suit her." That, hon. gentlemen, is the last straw in the weight which will break the camel's back. Such expressions must raise the ire of British Columbians from one end of the Province to the other, and may lead to consequences which are difficult to foresee, and which no one would regret more than myself. I now wish to say a few words in behalf of British Columbia. I think every one must see that British Columbia has been badly treated. I know that she thinks so herself, but what has annoyed her more than anything else is that Canada and her rulers during the past three years have been unremittingly engaged in the occupation of throwing difficulties and delays in the way of carrying out the terms of Union. Whenever and by whomsoever the matter is discussed, it has always been with the view of finding reasons why the work should not go on. Always, instead of avowing an intention of doing the best under the circumstances, the Canadian Government, press and people, with but few exceptions, have been searching for reasons how not to do that to which they are solemnly bound; and it is that and that alone which has exasperated the people of the Western Province. If Canada had always shown the inclination to do the best she could, to go heart and soul into the work before her, and to persevere to the end, there would never have been any discontent on the part of British Columbia; but, on the contrary, she would have been ready to meet the Dominion half way, and resign for the present her own good for the general advantage of the country. Is it a wonder, hon. gentlemen, that, under such circumstances as I have described, British Columbia should feel sore and disgusted? Is it a wonder that those feelings should find expression, and that there are even not a few who dare whisper the word "secession?" But, I for one, never think that the matter will come to such a pass as that last word suggests. I believe that ere long Canada will awake to the exigency of the moment, that the people will rise in their strength, and, at no distant time, will, with one supreme effort, throw from them the incubus which now weighs down and oppresses them in the shape of the present Ministry, and that they will then take the matter into their hands, and see that the terms of Union with British Columbia are carried out.

Can one fail to think but that every Canadian is proud of the grand country which he calls his own, of a country stretching from the Atlantic on one side to the Pacific on the other, across the wide expanse of this magnificent continent? And can one believe any Canadian so mean and contemptible as not to strain every endeavour to preserve the inviolability of that fair domain, and of the inheritance which he hopes to bequeath to his children?

Hon. Mr. READ said he took a somewhat different view of this question. He thought the Government were keeping faith to the best of their ability with British Columbia, and were endeavouring to fulfil every promise made at the time of Confederation. Mr. Fleming's last report was to the effect that every effort was being made to "discover a practical route for the railway in order that the terms of the Union with British Columbia might be carried out." He contended that the very first thing to be done was to have an exhaustive survey of the country, because if they made a false step in the location of the road it must cost millions of dollars; so if there was a little delay from this cause there was no reason for British Columbia to believe that faith was not to be kept with her. We did not agree with the resolution of the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON said it would scarcely be expected considering his connection with this railway a few years ago, that he should not have a few words to say on the resolution now before the House. If the hon. gentleman behind him was correct in his argument, the Government might have told the British Columbians that the survey was not completed; that until it was completed the railway could not be proceeded with. That might have been a good answer; it would have been a good plea for reasonable delay: but instead of that the Government said nothing about the survey, but proposed to expend a large amount of money in building a railway which would be of little use, and which would not have formed a part of the Canada Pacific Railway. He thought that it was quite evident that the Government was not wanting for surveys, but that they desired to wait for a very long time before proceeding with the main work. When the arrangement proposed by the late Government of constructing the railway through the agency of a company fell through, he became favourable to the work being undertaken by the Government through the Public Works Department, or under Commissioners. The