

there was a sufficient spirit of justice and fair-play to give me the impartial hearing which you have done to-night, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you have listened to my exposition of the policy of the Government of which I have the honor to be leader. (Loud and long continued cheers.)

Mr. J. C. Brown M.P.P., having at some length addressed the meeting,

The Premier, being called on to reply, said: I have not very much to say. The hour is growing late, and I fear your patience has already been considerably taxed. As to this placard which Mr. Brown says came from Chilliwack, I tell you that that is the first I saw of it, or heard of it, or that I was instrumental in getting it up. Perhaps some misguided friend thought it would do very well to make this announcement, although nobody at all had the slightest authority from me to do it. I have not the slightest objection, however, to go to Chilliwack or anywhere else where the people might wish to hear any remarks from me. [Cheers.] I have very little to say in reply, and were it not for the purpose of putting one matter straight, and which I should have referred to in my opening remarks, I do not know that I would have thought it necessary to make any reply. The matter I wish to speak of is the proposal to guarantee the incorporators of the Canada Pacific or British Pacific Railway to the extent of \$6,000,000. Now, allow me to say, as regards that matter, all that has been said on the subject is what we are bound to say—what any Government must say regarding any proposition—that it will receive consideration; but up to the present moment no proposal has been made which the Government can deal with. No proposition in a business shape has been placed before the Government, and whether it will be or not I do not know; but should it be so, I am sure we will deal with it in a business like way. Let me tell you another thing: there would be no power on the part of the Government to give any aid to this company of any kind whatever. It would have to come before the House for that purpose; and supposing it were to do so and were to be carried by a "mechanical majority," as my honorable friend Mr. Brown would call a majority of the members, before any legislation in the matter could have any effect whatever, before anything could be done, the House would have to go to the people, because the next session is the last of this House. So the consequence is, I do not care how desirous the Government might be to aid that measure, the matter would not assume any definite shape whatever until placed before the peo-

ple; and if this present House in its dying hours, in the last days of the session, chose to pass such a measure as is outlined here, the people, if not pleased with what was done, would have it in their power to nullify it. Upon that matter you may feel perfectly safe. The people would have it in their own hands to reverse the thing almost immediately afterwards. (Applause.)

Mr. Brown says there is no movement on foot for separation. I read that which purported to be a copy of the petition to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General, and I am certain a reference was made therein to separation, and the following paragraph, I think, will convince any one of Mr. Brown's misconception of what it means. It reads:

That, therefore, the people of the said Mainland portion of British Columbia object most strongly to the squandering of the provincial resources in non-productive undertakings, by the vote of a non-representative House, and are now advocating the separation of the Mainland from the Island as the surest means of relief from the evils under which they at present suffer.

As regards the question of the proportion in which you are to have distribution according to population here, that is the whole question over again. We must find out what is the true position before we can do anything. Indians who do not pay taxes are not taken into consideration at all. Mr. Brown has referred to everything except the last telegram from Mr. Lowe; and, twist it and turn it as he may, there is the absolute statement of Mr. Lowe, the Deputy Minister, as short a time ago as the 18th of April. He is asked how the matter actually stands in view of all the circumstances, and he says the British Columbia figures are as follows:

Vancouver Island—Indians.....	5,325
Chinese.....	3,183
Whites.....	28,259
Total.....	36,767
Mainland— Indians.....	29,634
Chinese.....	5,727
Whites.....	26,045
Total.....	61,406

That is what he says; that is what the Dominion Government says as regards this. We asked them for the correct figures, and they give us these. We think there is something wrong, and are desirous to have it put right for the satisfaction of the people, so that we may have a correct basis on which to form our Redistribution Bill. As regards the Government, so long as it is in power, it will endeavor to do justice to the whole country. The Government has every intention of carrying out its whole duty to the Province according to the promises given, and will do what is fair and square in the matter. [Loud cheers.]