

commercial and passenger route. The Minister of Justice animadverted in very strong terms upon the proposition which was moved by the leader of the Opposition in the other chamber that the company should take their own funds to pay their debts, instead of asking for more money from Parliament. I do not see that that is such a shocking proposition. In the first place, if the prospects of the company are as good as they are represented by the president in his report to be, I do not see why it is necessary to ask an advance of money from us at all; and certainly if it is a question whether the company shall advance the money or whether the country shall, I think it is quite clear that the company should do it. I put this to the Minister: a number of the shareholders and directors of this company are very wealthy men—the wealthiest men in Canada almost—that was one of the strongest arguments used in favor of our giving them the contract. Now the company want to raise \$5,000,000 to pay off the men who have been working for them. Why should not these wealthy stockholders pay them? Why should they come to us for money? If you contend that it is unfair to touch the fund which is there to secure dividends to all the shareholders, why should not the wealthy directors advance the money? I think it is natural to expect that they should do it rather than that the country should. If the shareholders of the company want money to pay their debts and to prevent their mortgage being foreclosed, they should be prepared to give up this guarantee that they shall get interest, and trust to the success of the undertaking for their interest; but if the shareholders did not wish to do that, then they should have advanced the money themselves, and not come to us. The Minister spoke as to what would happen if we took over the road. I think that when the company came to us 12 months ago for more money, we would have done perhaps wiser to have taken over the road. If they insist upon our taking over the road now, I am disposed to think it would be just as well that we should take it over; but I do not think it would be a very valuable property, because I think it would be found that the company have so arranged things that those parts of the

undertaking from which the large returns that the Minister read of come do not form part of the contracted line, and they are not covered by the mortgage which the country holds; and it is not an impossible thing that by and by, just as Mr. McIntyre has got out of the concern and taken his \$2,000,000, and as Mr. Kennedy has got out and taken a very considerable sum with him, the old contractors will get out of the company, and possibly the country may take over the contracted line and find they have not a particularly valuable property. If the property is so valuable it is rather remarkable that the stock of the company is so low in the market. The Minister seemed to misapprehend a remark which I made about Russia. I thought that Canada becoming such a country as Russia would be a misfortune. Russia is governed by an autocrat. The remark of the Minister was calculated to suggest the idea that we were about establishing a despotism for Canada to be controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. I think that was an unfortunate suggestion. I have every confidence in the future of the country. I think that our North-West must, in the not remote future, have a very considerable population, because there is now comparatively little land suited for settlement available in the United States. The land there has been nearly taken up; and our land is, as a rule, better than theirs, and it will be the only land available for settlement. I have no doubt that in the next 20 years—that is if the country gets a somewhat better government than it has now, and we get rid of the monopoly that is exercised by this railway, and give the people of the North-West representative institutions—probably in less time, we shall have a considerable population there.

HON. MR KAULBACH—How do you propose to get rid of the monopoly?

HON. MR. POWER—As I stated at the beginning, I regret that I was not as well informed on this subject as I should be, and that I was not as well prepared to deal with the elaborate argument of the Minister of Justice as I should be; but I think I have said enough to show at any rate why the Company are in the position