

it intelligently), and so they proposed to refer it to a commission. And whom did they seek for chairman of that commission? To whom did they look for light and leading and guidance in the solution of this great transportation problem? It is a matter of record on 'Hansard,' that again and again, when asked from this side of the House why that commission had not been appointed, the answer was made by ministers: We are trying to secure the services of Sir Wm. Van Horne as chairman. Did his connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway debar him from acting on behalf of the government and the people of Canada in that important matter? Not at all, Sir. Therefore I say, judging from the record, it is unworthy of hon. gentlemen opposite to charge any member on this side of the House with being actuated by bias or prejudice because of his connection with any great railway corporation or any great financial institution in this country. Sir, the Canadian Pacific Railway is owned and managed and directed by men who are Canadians. That great company has done more to open up and develop and consolidate all the parts of the Dominion than any other institution existing in Canada. Instead of being slandered, the men who have assisted in developing that company and bringing it to the proud position it occupies to-day should be held up as worthy to receive the confidence and the support of every fair minded Canadian, no matter to what party he may yield political allegiance. I, as an humble member of the Conservative opposition, resent the imputations which have been made upon my colleague the member from West Toronto (Mr. Osler) I state here from my place that whether he is connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway or not connected with it, his opinions are entitled to value, and I say further that his opinions are all the more entitled to value on a question of this kind because of the position he occupies as director of a great railway corporation. That hon. gentleman is responsible to his electors for the opinions he may advance in this House, and in the light of that test the opinions of my hon. friend (Mr. Osler) will pass current when the opinions of his critics will have been long forgotten.

Not only has my colleague from West Toronto been bitterly assailed, but the hon. the leader of the opposition has also been the subject of unworthy attack. There is a species of cuttle fish whose only weapon is an inky fluid which it discharges so as to baffle its enemies and effect its escape. Perhaps it is this habit of the cuttle fish that has suggested to certain gentlemen on the other side of the House the line of attack which they have made on the leader of the opposition and on the member for West Toronto. But, Sir, such unworthy tactics must fail. These gentlemen are too well known, and they occupy too high a place

Mr. CLARKE.

in the confidence and affections of the Canadian people, to have their lofty character detracted from by such attacks, no matter from what source they emanate. The member for Annapolis, I am sorry to say, was the chief sinner in attacking the leader of the opposition. He ventured to use this language:

I say we of the maritime provinces had the right to expect, and we did expect to receive the full support of the representatives of the maritime provinces who sit on the other side of the House, and we were disappointed when we found them seceding from the position which they had taken. Especially had we the right to expect the hearty co-operation of the hon. leader of the opposition, who represents the city of Halifax, a constituency which is more interested than any other in the whole Dominion in the construction of this road. I was disappointed, Sir, that we did not receive that assistance. . . . It is a surprise to me that there can be found in this House one hon. gentleman representing a constituency in the lower provinces who is not ready to support the hand of the government to the fullest extent in this project. I realize that the maritime provinces are under obligations to the present government. I realize that when the present government undertook to insist upon the building of that eastern section they adopted an heroic course and took their political lives in their hands. We are grateful to them and will show our gratitude when we come to cast our votes at the next general election.

And the hon. member for Hants (Mr. Russell) was a good second in attacking his distinguished fellow member from the maritime provinces who leads the Conservative party in this country. The member for Hants declared:

I say as my hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Wade) and the Minister of the Interior have already said—we are ready for this issue. We are certainly ready for it in the province of Nova Scotia.

These are the gentlemen who protest against sectional appeals being made; these are the gentlemen who have charged us, who come from Ontario, with making sectional appeals in connection with this project; these are the men who try to make it appear that the leader of the opposition is not loyal to the interests of that part of Canada whence he comes. Surely, it does not rest in the mouths of these gentlemen to charge us with making sectional appeals on a question of national importance. Sir, there are more than the fortunes of a party involved in this discussion; there is a great national issue at stake; and if we cannot succeed by appealing to the intelligence, the patriotism, the common sense and the reason of the people of Canada, I hope we shall never succeed by making sectional appeals. I, for one, shall uphold the leader of the opposition not because he is false to the interests of the maritime provinces—for such is not the case—but because I believe that the policy which he has announced is a policy which is destined to confer on