

years. It was that which had disconcerted all the anticipations and finances of this Company. He was quite within the mark when he said that nearly the whole of the money which the Company had received from equipment bonds had been as good as lost to the Company, not by extravagance or neglect, but by the loss incurred on the American exchange. The working capital raised five years ago had not been capable of being applied to the purposes for which it was intended, because the American war had inflicted loss upon the Company of over £300,000. Another point was that when the settlement of 1862 was made there was every probability, looking to the negotiations then in progress, that the Intercolonial Railway would have been commenced in 1863, and would have been finished before this, and in that case the Grand Trunk would have profited largely by the completion of that work. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CREAK had some difficulty in understanding the position of the question before the meeting. If he voted for the amendment of Mr. Smith he should be dealing only with one portion of the scheme proposed. If the amendment was carried it would not be possible to raise the £480,000 required, and if that could not be raised what then would be the position of the Company? It was all very well for gentlemen to come down and propose amendments which would throw directors, who had consulted together upon the subject, upon their backs, and not submit any other plan for their approval. (Hear.)

Mr. SMITH explained that he had no objection to the raising of £480,000, but he objected to mixing the scheme up with one for the conversion of the postal and military bonds as proposed.

Mr. CREAK, in reply to the explanation, answered that it was impossible to raise £500,000 on equipment mortgage bonds, unless they were prepared to alter the arrangement of 1862. If this could not be done, was Mr. Smith prepared to take every penny of net revenue until the Company were supplied with a sufficient amount of rolling stock, and the line put into good working order? (Hear, hear.) If he was not prepared for that, he did not see what advantage would result from negating the proposition of the Directors. If the proposal were rejected, he should certainly protest against the payment of another penny to preference holders until the line were put into thorough working order. (Hear, hear.)