

the mistake that the Premier of that day made was in placing too implicit confidence in the judgment of his engineers. But the hon gentleman when he was dealing with the mistakes in location might have come a little further down in the history of the road and taken something that was done by his own friends. We remember that after the change of Government took place, there was a great deal said about the folly of this location through the narrows of Lake Manitoba, and the Minister of Railways of that day, who is now High Commissioner in England, undertook to build, and did lay down 100 miles of Government railway west of Winnipeg. What was the character of that road? Was it much better than the road through the Narrows would have been? Not at all; because as soon as the frost went out of the ground the rails and sleepers on that portion of the road constructed by the Government, of which the hon. gentleman is a supporter, sank into the soft marshy soil, and the first thing that the Canadian Pacific Company did when they came in, or almost the first thing, was to take up such rails as could be recovered and build the road elsewhere. I do not think in the matter of locating the Pacific Railway in Manitoba the hon. gentleman's friends have much more reason to congratulate themselves than my friends have. The hon. member referred to attacks made on the North-West and its capabilities. I have listened with reasonable attention to the debates in this House, and I do not remember that I have ever heard anyone say anything against the soil, climate or capabilities of the North-West territory. A good deal has been said about the way in which the Government had mal-administered the affairs of that territory. But nothing has been said against the territory itself. Then the hon. gentleman, in a fit of virtuous indignation, talked about the atrocity (that is what one would gather from his words) of attempting to violate a contract made with the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. POWER—I discussed that matter in what my hon. friend was pleased to characterize as my floundering way;

and I shall not dwell upon it again; but if the hon. gentleman has such regard for the sanctity of contracts, why is it that, when a vote was taken yesterday on an amendment to prevent the violation of a solemn decision as to the location of the western terminus, the hon. gentleman voted to repudiate that contract and damage people who are not shareholders in the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, but who are good, law-abiding, loyal and British subjects.

HON. MR. MCINNIS—Only poor citizens.

HON. MR. POWER—Then the hon. gentleman, in that way which is so familiar to us, talked about how the country had approved of the conduct of the present Government, and how the country would—and he spoke quite positively on this point—give a verdict in their favor when an opportunity occurred. The hon. gentleman may or may not be right as to what the result of the next election may be; but he must remember that the country will not have an opportunity of giving a free, open and untrammelled verdict upon the conduct of the present Government; because the Government have taken care so to alter the election law that the verdict will be not altogether the verdict of the country, but to a large extent the verdict of the officers appointed by the Government. I hope the House will pardon me for having trespassed so long on their time in replying to the hon. gentleman. I wish now to be allowed to say just a few words with reference to this amendment which I now propose:—

That the said Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole House, for the purpose of adding the following clause:—

“Notwithstanding anything in the Canadian Pacific Railway Act, 1884, or any amendment thereto, the lien of the Government on the Canadian Pacific Railway shall apply to and include any extension of the said railway to English Bay or Coal Harbor.”

The fairness of that, I think, must be evident, for the reasons that were urged yesterday in discussing the matter by other hon. gentlemen more than by myself; but there is this additional reason to which I do not think attention was called. If the railway is extended to English Bay or