

responsibility of a lessee for a limited period, administering the property of others for the heavier and more durable responsibilities of owners managing their own property." Pap. xxxvi.

"In France, the absence, almost complete, up to the present time, of all competition amongst railways, discard that valuable equilibrium which is the safeguard of British industry." Pap. xxxvii.

"The plan of direct management by the Government itself seems to meet with condemnation on all sides, the chief objections raised being the want of a direct interest, the want of thorough knowledge or peculiar aptitude, the habit of costly management, and the danger of abuse in patronage." Page 112 same Report.

The country, on different occasions, has expressed its opinion, and its decision has never varied. The Act of 1872, authorising the construction of the railway, declared positively that it should be constructed by a private company, and in order that no doubt should remain about the unanimous disposition of the country, when the Mackenzie Government came into power, in 1874, it entered afresh in our statutes this universal preference in favor of private companies. And even were the weighty considerations which I have just pointed out not in existence, there still remains another, and the most important one, as it affects the relations of parties with politics. I ask what a storm would be let loose in this House if it were asked at this moment, Mr. Speaker, to invest us with the property of the Pacific Railway and the millions of patronage which it implies. With what terror would we not see the Opposition contemplate the fact that all the resources of the Pacific would lay in our hands. It would be then that all the philippics, all the violent denunciations of past and present days, would wake all the echoes of this Chamber, and no eloquence would be found expressive enough to invoke upon us the wrath of electors. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if we had lived for the love of power we could have armed ourselves with this invincible weapon; but before thinking of the sweets of power, we must consider the duties which devolve upon it, and we must not sow dissensions in the political world. We want a frank, open and loyal contest, free from the elements as well as the appearances of undue influence.

Now, it is my duty to again ask this House to pardon me for having occupied its time so long in making the remarks I thought it my duty to make on this important question. It is not very often that I trespass upon the good will and patience of hon. members, and it is on this plea that I ask to be forgiven. I have, I think, proved that it was right for the Government to have done what they did last year; I think I have demonstrated by the facts I have put before this House that it was right for the Government