

Inspired by the principles of an illustrious Canadian, their former colleague—"Canada pour les Canadiens et par les Canadiens"—they made this motto their own. On the first page of this programme was inscribed the Transcontinental Railway, and rightly, for on its construction depended the safety of the Federation. To postpone it would have been to set public opinion at defiance and to put themselves on the same footing of helplessness before the financiers of Europe on which their predecessors had stood. On the other hand, to undertake so gigantic an enterprise in the actual economic condition of Canada, seemed like a challenge to the fate of the party. But boldness, when combined with genius, has rarely failed, and Sir John Macdonald was not deceived in his plans and forecasts. The most critical duty that fell to his lot was to find men who would accept the colossal task and incur all the risks connected with it in exchange for reasonable compensation.

The new syndicate of the Canadian Pacific was composed of men of broad views and of exceptional energy and force of character. From their own treasury or that of powerful capitalists whom they associated with them they were able to bring large resources to the enterprise, and the well known patriotism of the chief partners was a guarantee of the integrity of their intentions. In the month of October, 1880, a contract was signed between the Canadian Government and the syndicate of the Canadian Pacific. In June, 1881, the workmen were apportioned their stations along 4000