

in the way of development and progress. In order to rival with advantage the United States, which contend with us for, and too often carry off, the better class of emigrants by means of the liberal offers which they make to them, by all means it is necessary that the price of our public lands, which we are desirous of colonising should be placed at the very lowest figure. For the first and the principal compensation which the country will expect in return for the burden imposed upon it by the construction of this gigantic Railway is the rapid settlement of these vast and now all but desert regions and the traffic thus to be derived from them through their surplus products and their importations in exchange therefor. The construction of one hundred and twenty miles of railway, to be commenced early in the spring and vigorously proceeded with is a tangible proof of the desire of the present Government to do justice to the inhabitants of that Province. The country will approve of the course of thus redeeming as far as possible the promise given in its name; as it must see with satisfaction that the Government seems to be of opinion that these works are proportioned to the resources of which it can at present advantageously dispose, and that, before putting the remainder under contract, they will, as I fancy endeavour to procure the necessary means otherwise than by new foreign loans, so as to avoid too much drawing on the future or incurring the risk of burdening the present inhabitants of the old Provinces for the over-exclusive benefit of a population not yet located in that country, and which, when they come to dwell in it, will have contributed least to these costly public works. The final selection of the Burrard Inlet route, and of the western terminus of the Pacific Railway gives the Government a twofold title to our felicitations, because, in the first place, we are thus enabled to put an end to the heavy expenditure involved by the surveys in that difficult region; and, in the second place, because that decision proves that the Government are not afraid to follow, in the interests of the country, the footsteps of their opponents, when the latter appear to them to have followed a proper course. They regret perhaps that the late Cabinet

should have left them so few footsteps in which it would be safe to follow. The public will learn with satisfaction that, thanks to the able and economical management of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, the Intercolonial Railway which those who opposed its construction said would be the ruin of the country has already ceased to be a serious charge upon the public chest. There is now no doubt but it will become a lucrative undertaking for the trade of the country, whereby the completion of the Canada Central and the extension eastwards of the Pacific Railway to the western terminus of the latter, or of some equivalent branch will have placed the Q. M. O. & O. Railway in direct communication with the North-West, and a suspension or other bridge across the St. Lawrence, above Quebec, will have linked the latter with the line from Levis to Rivière du Loup. This would be a sure means of largely increasing the traffic on the Intercolonial, while doing justice to the Maritime Provinces, and the Province of Quebec, and of avoiding the danger of the trade of the west being diverted from our railways, waterways and ports, in order to replenish the railways, canals and ports of the Americans after passing through but a small part of the Province of Ontario, from which our friends in that province would profit nothing, while the country in general would suffer serious loss. It is satisfactory to witness in this connection the manifest desire of the present Government not to expose useful and necessary Canadian undertakings to be ruined by unfair foreign competition. It is to be regretted that, in order to preserve the Indians of the North-West from the straits of famine, a large expenditure of money has this year been found necessary; nevertheless, it is still less costly to feed these primitive owners of the land we occupy than to hunt them away as is done in other parts of this continent, to say nothing of the fact that the former course is more Christian and more honourable. In this case the Government has shown itself faithful to the traditional policy of honesty, generosity and kindness characteristic of the authorities of Canada towards these wild children of the forest. The efforts of the Government to habituate them to cultivate the soil and to seek