

extent, or almost to the same extent, of St. John, New Brunswick; and I do not hesitate to say that, to-day, if any man of sufficient ability were to devote himself to a repeal agitation in the three Lower Provinces, no more popular policy could be advocated, and at the expiration of a year's agitation, if a vote were taken, I believe that certainly not less than four-fifths of the population would vote for a repeal of the present Union. I am not speaking as a party man, but simply giving the opinion expressed by leading Conservatives in the Lower Provinces as well as by those who oppose the Government. The emigration from the Province of Nova Scotia and from Prince Edward Island has hardly ever been greater than it is to-day, and I believe the same is true of the Province of New Brunswick; and the regrettable feature of it is that that emigration is not directed to our own North-West or to the Upper Provinces, but is almost altogether to the United States, a portion to the Eastern States, and a great proportion to the North-Western States, which enter into competition with our own new territory. I think this state of things in the Maritime Provinces is a subject of great regret and I, for one, coming from one of those Provinces, cannot very cordially join in the congratulations on the return of commercial prosperity and our general happiness. The next paragraph deals with the proposed mode of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway. I quite concur in everything that has been said on that subject by the leader of the Opposition. There are just two or three remarks of my own which I should like to add. The third paragraph says: "Three of my Ministers therefore proceeded to England for the purpose of carrying on negotiations to that end." Now, hon. gentlemen, it seems to me that that little trip—although I have no doubt it was a very delightful thing for the hon. gentlemen who enjoyed it—was altogether unnecessary, and was a useless expense, because it does not appear that the negotiations were brought to any thing like a head in England. The leading members of the Syndicate with whom the business has been transacted are not English or Continental, but Canadians and Americans, and the

*Hon. Mr. Power.*

actual business of arranging the terms for the construction of the railway have been made since the return of those Ministers to this country. The circumstances are strongly in favor of this view of the case. If it is true that these arrangements were made in England months ago, why is it that, notwithstanding the great anxiety which the Government express that they should be ratified at once, Parliament is summoned to do so only to-day? If the work was done months ago in England, Parliament should have been summoned at an earlier date to ratify the contract, and allow the Syndicate to make the necessary preparations for going on with their work. It is only a year ago that Parliament was called upon, just because this country had so much business to do in England, to pass an Act to provide for the appointment of a representative in London. This gentleman was selected, I presume, on account of his great ability, particularly in dealing with large financial and business matters. His salary was made very large, and it was understood and declared that his appointment was to render unnecessary those periodical visits of detachments of the Cabinet to the other side of the Atlantic. I think it is regrettable that, the very first year after the appointment of this highly salaried official, three Ministers had to go over at large expense, and this plenipotentiary was, apparently, found to be of no use whatever. How much better off is the country for the appointment of that plenipotentiary last year? There is one other point in connection with this matter of the Syndicate and the summoning of Parliament, which, I think, has not been put altogether as it should be by the hon. knight who leads the Government. He takes the ground that the Government wish to give the fullest opportunity to discuss this question; and, as a reason why the terms of this contract have not been made known to the public, he says, as I understand it, that he thinks that that course would be disrespectful to Parliament. Now, I do not think the Government always show such respect for the feelings of Parliament. It seems to me that it was only last year, just on the eve of the meeting of Parliament, that the Government entered into contracts for the con-