

don market at present, although not very quotable. There is another little railway called the Elgin and something railway; but for one or both of these railways, the people of the county of Albert, not a very large county, had given municipal bonuses, and they were interested in the keeping up of the road, and they were interested, also, in being relieved of their bonuses. It was rather a burning question, I believe, in the county of Albert, down to, and sometime before, the 11th February. We are familiar with the road, we know it in the way in which the Parliament of Canada knows a great many concerns—we have loaned it some money, a small sum—I am again astonished at the moderation of the Government—I think it was only \$15,000 at that time, a trifle hardly worth spending ten seconds of the clock to talk of, but still we loaned the road \$15,000. The road and the general condition of railway facilities were rather a burning question, and consequently it was a very important thing that the people of Albert should know that something was going to be done; and in this case, as it did not concern Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou, which had to be attended to, *coûte que coûte*, and as to which there must be a decision arrived at, but as it was not quite so important, an Order in Council was not passed, but the proposal was to be submitted to the colleagues of the hon. gentleman, and the hon. member for Albert read, I have no doubt, with that correct emphasis and admirable punctuation of which we have had experience, this telegram, and I dare say he received a round of enthusiastic cheers and very much support from the people of Albert, as having been the happy medium or instrument by which these good things had reached Albert. Now, therefore, I think, for these and for some other reasons, it will be premature for us to congratulate ourselves just at this moment upon the moderation of the Minister of Finance. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman then proceeds to say that I sent Mr. Anglin down to Nova Scotia, and he used a number of his old adjectives and substantives with reference to Mr. Anglin's mission, and what he did, and what he said. Now, it may be surprising, Sir, but it is a fact, that up to the moment the hon. gentleman read some passages from Mr. Anglin's speech, I had never seen or heard of the matter. It may be surprising, but it is a fact, that, so far from my having sent Mr. Anglin to Nova Scotia, we neither had any communication on the subject of his proposed visit there, nor was I cognisant of the fact that it was to take place, nor did I know that it would take place until one day—for it seems I am to relieve myself of the impeachments of these hon. gentlemen by making disclosures which one need not, ordinarily, be called upon to make. His son happens to be a student in my office. I sent a dinner card inviting Mr. Anglin to dinner. His boy came to me with the card, and he said: "Sir, here is the note; I was just going to send it to my father, but he has gone down to Nova Scotia. He has been away a week." That is the first I ever heard of Mr. Anglin going, or intending to go, down to Nova Scotia. But the hon. gentlemen are determined to make Mr. Anglin my deputy. They say he is my ambassador; they say I sent him there. Well, I have told you the literal fact. Now, I do not know, except what the hon. gentleman has read, as to what Mr. Anglin said about it. All I can say is, I repeat that I never had the slightest conversation with that gentleman as to going anywhere, as to his doing any such business, or as to his saying anything of the kind, and whatever he said, whatever he did, was, as I presume, stated from a knowledge of my public utterances of the past, as I know it was not said from any private communication or personal communication to him by me. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman declared that he had there in Mr. Anglin's speech the proof of bribery. Sir, I know Mr. Anglin well. I know him to be a man of judgment, of sober sense, of honor, of candor, and I was amazed to see that even the hon. gentleman's

powers of imagination should be supposed capable of constructing any such *imago* from any words that Mr. Anglin might have uttered. I will tell the hon. gentleman what I believe—as he read, I happen to have a book here which gave me the clue—I will tell the hon. gentleman whence, I presume, Mr. Anglin derived his statement of his views. He derived them from former unworthy speeches of mine, I have no doubt. I have here the statements which I have made each year, which I, the great enemy of the Province of Nova Scotia, have made, not merely amongst my people and on the platform elsewhere, but in this Chamber as well. We had a discussion, I think it was in the year 1884, upon the subject of the proposed railway grants, including an additional grant in respect of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Province of Quebec, and I said this:

"Now, Sir, I think that the position of the Province of Quebec, as I have pointed out, has demanded for some time past and is now demanding the attention of this Parliament; and for my part I have always been prepared to deal fairly by that or any other of the Provinces, but on the condition of equal and fair justice to all. And I do not suppose my hon. friend from the Province of Quebec, will ask more; all those sitting on the other side though they might view my proposition differently from what I view I do not think they will dissent from the spirit in which I now address myself to them; namely that it is fair and reasonable under these circumstances when a new policy of this kind is being proposed to consider what its real basis is, to consider what the real condition of the other Provinces is relative to that basis and otherwise, and to see whether what is being proposed as it stands, and without applying proper remedies for the application generally of the new principle you propose can be called just. I say, Sir, that for my part I should desire and it is one of the things which is most important for us to consider next to the constitutional character—I should desire that we should address ourselves, very early and very earnestly, to the solution of the question, by the adoption of some plan whereby once for all the question of the Provincial subsidies should be placed on a permanent and lasting basis. I believe it to be destructive of the independence and autonomy of the Provinces that they should be looking to Ottawa for favors, that they should be dependent on the central Government for carrying on their affairs. I believe it to be destructive to confederation itself that a system should continue under which it might be said: 'Oh we will go on, we will expand more, we will go into debt, and when we get to a pass that we cannot carry on any longer, the Ottawa Parliament must relieve us.'"

Then I said this:

"If it be the fact that the Provincial Governments and Legislatures, after an experience of seventeen years, are not in a position financially to discharge those functions which belong to them, the whole subject ought to be reconsidered. If in consequence of their impecuniosity they are unable effectually to discharge their own functions, you may do one of two things. You may say: We propose to alter the constitution so that the Central Government shall take this, that and the other, and so relieve you both of important dignity, power and provincial autonomy, and of expense at the same time; or you may propose a new adjustment of the financial question which will enable you efficiently to continue the discharge of those functions which for seventeen years you have been discharging."

Again I said, referring particularly to Nova Scotia:

"Quebec is in a condition which demands the serious consideration of the Confederation. But she is not alone in that condition. You will find statements made from the Province of Nova Scotia for example, and those who have endeavored to analyse—I know with difficulty, with very great aptitude to her, for want of information—those who have attempted to analyse the expenses of that Province will, I think, find that there has not been a very great deal to complain of in the way of extravagance. At least that was the result of such cursory investigation as from time to time I have been able to make into the expenditure of that Province, and I am not singling out any one Government from another; there has been alterations of government. I do not find that there has been much extravagance or that the expenditure has been in excess to a large amount, if at all, of the demands of that Province. We know, however, that its resources are cramped, that it is more or less in a state of distress, locally."

I have spoken also at other times and in other places, here and elsewhere, on this subject in the same strain. So that I think I have shown that the views I held with respect to the Province of Nova Scotia, the views I held as regards the Provinces, were views not applicable to Nova Scotia alone, but they were views which I stated on the floor of this Parliament, in the presence of my assembled colleagues from all parts of Canada, as open to general discussion, and as applicable to the general condition of affairs. Then the