

his way to England with a view to give some definite offer which might be considered by the Government. He did not speak without authority, when he made this statement. He thought the gentleman and been sent to England and had returned and reported that the co-operation of some of the wealthiest men in monied circles in England could be obtained. Even then there was no stopping of the arrangement that had apparently been premeditated with Sir Hugh Allan and his American co-adjustors in this matter.

He noticed that hon. member for Vancouver smiled. They had a speech from him the other day, when he took occasion to speak approvingly of the introduction of American capital into the undertaking. He (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had not the slightest objection to the introduction of such American capital as they could obtain, and as many enterprising Americans as they could secure either to settle in this country or carry on our public works; but he did not agree that it was the right policy of this country to place this undertaking not merely in the hands of Americans, but in the hands of the Americans who notoriously control the Northern Pacific Road in the United States, in the hands of those who were there avowed antagonists of and rivals to our own undertaking, and the mere setting up of some Canadian gentlemen as their representatives would not do away with the objection. They were assured from sources that seemed to be entitled to some consideration that the parties who were supplying the chief part of the capital were those whose names did not appear on the directorate of the Company at all.

It was tolerably evident from the speeches of Sir Hugh Allan that his own preference was for a road different from that proposed by the Parliament. The indications were that at some future time they might apply to Parliament to have the road changed to that extent that they would find the Canadian Pacific diverted from the course Parliament had marked out in order to become the feeder to what was at present a rival road, traversing to a great extent in foreign country.

He thought it was extremely unfortunate that the course the Government had taken in this matter was such as to create strong feeling of hostility on the part of a large number of our influential public men. Whether rightly or wrongly, there could be no question of the existence of a feeling in connection with the inauguration of this great public work. That feeling would result very probably in the first place in injuring the prospects of obtaining money in the English market. It might result in injuring it in several other ways that might easily be understood by gentlemen who had considered this subject, and he could see no necessity for having placed those parties in this position at all. It seemed to have been an easy matter to have brought the subject before the two companies that were organized in such a way as to invite a new combination of the gentlemen who were in a position to procure the capital.

The non-fulfilment of this essential part of the administrative duty of the Government was what he could not find words strong enough to condemn. If the undertaking were to be made a mere plaything of the Government when it suited their purpose, or to be

made a football to accomplish political objects with, then they had no security that the road would be proceeded with as it ought to be, and the people of British Columbia had not only no security for the fulfilment of their contract, but it became absolutely certain that that contract would not be fulfilled.

As one member of this House, he was prepared to give every reasonable assistance to carry out what this House once pronounced to be the proper mode of doing that or anything else till the same authority had changed the course prescribed. But the same duty was imposed upon them of preventing as far as they possibly could, the perversion of the power that had been entrusted to the Government in this or in any other matter.

He had intended to have asked that all the correspondence that the Government had had with any or all of the parties be laid before the House, as practically this paragraph was inviting discussion upon the subject; but he knew from experience that gentlemen opposite would refuse to bring it down, and he therefore simply determined to make such remarks as would present his own views, and he trusted, the views of some others, in advance of the period when they should have full discussion after these papers should have been brought down.

With regard to the canal question, he asserted that the interest of the country depended upon a liberal and extended canal policy, and the Government would have no more earnest advocates than the gentlemen to be found on that Opposition side of the House, if such a policy as would afford a means of opening up the country from ocean to ocean by the cheapest and shortest route; but there were circumstances connected with this canal policy to which attention should be directed for a few moments. They were informed that the specification of the Baie Verte Canal had been so far completed as to make it possible to proceed at once with the construction of that work.

He has been informed—he did not know whether or not his information was correct, but it was stated in the newspapers, and he supposed it was true—that the gentleman entrusted with the survey was once an engineer in the Public Works Department, and in consequence of a serious blunder, of which he was guilty, was removed from office. That gentleman was supposed to be the most competent of engineer, and competent of giving advice, and making surveys and pleas for what he ventured to say was one of the most extraordinary works that had ever been conceived in the Dominion. It was a work which would require the greatest possible engineering skill, and if the Government had not obtained the very ablest men to be found for that class of engineering work, they were very sadly to blame in proposing to submit the estimates for the contracts for the performance of the work. He thought this course should not be adopted. The House should have the most intimate knowledge of all the facts and circumstances that were obtainable with respect to the matter before they proceeded rashly to undertake the performance of a work of such magnitude. That was the only way in which they could obtain a cheap and good work, and avoid blunders such as were made in connection with the Beauharnois Canal.