

believe that is a fact, and the progress which has been made since the commencement of the building of that road is creditable to the Company and creditable to the Government. It would be marvellous, indeed, if nothing turned up to temporarily mar the prosperity and progress of an enterprise of such magnitude some time before its completion. But whatever may be the legislation that is to be brought down to Parliament, to my mind the Government is in duty bound to maintain the progress of that work, and keep that progress in motion until it is thoroughly completed.

Without the railway the North-West would be just worth what it was the day when it came into our possession. The different Provinces are bound together, not only by ties of trade and commerce, but also by this railway, and I may say that we can boast, of soon having what no other country on this continent possesses, a continuous line of railway from one ocean to the other. The Americans have two or three such lines but they are all composed of a number of links, each one under the control of a company independent of the others. A few years ago if you met an American and hinted at rivalry or jealousy on their part he would simply laugh at you and say: "we will let you alone and you will drop into our arms in good time;" but to-day they look upon us as rivals in many ways. With the ingenuity and intelligence of our people, with a fertile soil and the many advantages and vast resources which we possess, Canada will ere long be a successful rival of the United States. In this instance of the Pacific Railway we can boast that to a certain extent we have surpassed them.

I have occupied your time now almost too long and I ask you to exercise forbearance and sympathy in criticising my remarks, because this is the first time that I have ever addressed a large public audience. I have now much pleasure in seconding the motion.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Before proceeding to make any comments on the resolutions now on the desks of hon. Senators I desire to call attention to the selection of an hon. Senator from Nova Scotia to fill the Chair of the Senate. In making such an appointment the Government naturally select a

gentleman who is supposed to be in warm political sympathy with the Administration. Your utterances, sir, on the various questions which have come before the Senate while I have had the honor of a seat here have not, in my judgment, been marked by a strong political bias that could make me, at all events, in any way regret the selection of yourself to fill the important position which you now hold. The only regret I have is that it removes one from the debates in the House who always brought to the consideration of every question a mind well stored with facts bearing upon it, and at the same time with a degree of clearness that enables hon. gentlemen frequently to comprehend the subject before them. And, sir, although the scope of the duties that the President of this Assembly is called upon to discharge is much less than those that usually fall to the lot of gentlemen who preside over deliberative bodies elsewhere, yet there are occasions when the Senate appeals to the Speaker for the decision of very important questions. At those times I am quite satisfied that your judgment will be marked with that clearness, with that intelligence and, I may add, with that impartiality that will make them at all times acceptable to this House. I can say no more. These few words I trust, at all events as far as I am myself concerned, will convince you (and I hope carry some weight with this House) that I have every faith in the impartiality, wisdom and prudence with which you will discharge the duties that devolve on the Chair, and more particularly that of giving advice to the younger members of the Senate. We have in this Chamber many gentlemen who are not familiar with the forms of Parliamentary procedure. Your familiarity with that subject will enable you to be of material aid to them on all occasions.

Now, addressing myself, as is usual, to the mover and seconder of the resolution on the table, I desire to say that I think the mover had no necessity for apologizing for the manner in which he discharged the duty allotted to him. He has had experience in addressing public bodies before, holding a position at the Bar of the Province of Quebec, and I believe also in one of the deliberative bodies of that Province. He has to-day given us the clearest possible proof that he will be enabled at all