

was completed. I am conscientiously bound to take a different view on that subject from the Government and the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament. I believe that the country is not to be so warmly congratulated on the completion of that road, and I shall tell you presently why. If I stand alone on the question, I am honest in my convictions, and if I give my reasons I think some who hear me will be reasonable enough to say there is something in them. I believe that a great mistake was made in the construction of that railway in the manner in which the forces were employed. I believe that instead of beginning at Winnipeg and working west from that point, they ought to have begun here at Pembroke or somewhere in the east and built at as early a day as possible round the head of Lake Superior, and from Winnipeg built eastward, until all rail connection with the prairie country was secured, and thereby give easy access for immigrants through our country, instead of sending them by a circuitous route by Chicago and St. Paul. I believe that in British Columbia they should have gone as they did—begin at the coast and work east through the Cascade Mountains to the Selkirk range, but I believe beyond that the Government ought not to have encouraged the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to go on and build the road through the Rockies at the unprecedented rate they have done. I believe that if they had completed the road inside of ten years according to contract, it would have been infinitely better for this country. The building went on at such an unparalleled rate, such a break-neck pace, that the people of the Dominion of Canada, especially those in the Western Provinces and Territories, were not in a position to take advantage of the enormous expenditure of money, and the consequence was, in order to supply the labor demand, they had to send to China, to California and Oregon, and bring in a sufficient amount of labor to complete the road in one-half the contract time. I believe that if the Chinese had not been employed on that work, and if the building of the road had been extended over five years more, a great number of white people would have come into the Province of British Columbia; many would have worked on the

road for a time, saved their money, and settled in the country and become citizens of Canada and revenue producers. Instead of that, three-fourths of the many millions of dollars that have been expended on the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway in British Columbia and the North-West Territories has found its way out of Canada, which, under a different policy, would have remained in the country, and would have materially assisted in tiding over this unusual depression in the labor and commercial markets of Canada. This is the reason why I say that I do not think that this country should be congratulated so very warmly as stated in the Speech from the Throne. I believe that it would have been in the true interests of the country and every practical purpose would have been served had the Rocky Mountain section not been completed before 1891—the contract time. There is reference made also to the fisheries. I will not enter into a general discussion on that question to-day; but I would say with respect to that paragraph that if negotiations are entered into and a new Treaty made with the United States, I sincerely trust that the Government will not be as guilty of dereliction of duty as they were when the Washington Treaty was negotiated. Although British Columbia at that time was to all intents and purposes part and parcel of the Dominion—the proclamation declaring British Columbia a Province of the Dominion having been issued a few weeks after the treaty was negotiated, she was excluded from the advantages that accrued from that Treaty. An invidious distinction was made against our province in that respect. It certainly was a very great hardship that we in British Columbia, a fish-producing province, should have been deprived of the markets of the United States and of the advantages and benefits that the people of the Maritime Provinces enjoyed from that treaty. I certainly hope that if a new treaty is entered into that British Columbia will not be again treated as not being a part of the Dominion of Canada.

As it is nearly six o'clock I shall not trespass any more on your time at present. There are several matters in the Speech from the throne that are likely to be brought before the notice of this House