

late Premier endeavoured, as far as possible, to get as much information by exploratory and instrumental surveys as would enable us to proceed with the work as far as consistent with the Act of 1874, which declares that we shall not proceed with the work if the result is to increase the burdens of taxation upon the people. The present Government, however, are determined to proceed with this work. The resolution introduced last night, clearly indicated the policy of the Government. There is a general feeling prevalent in the country that the Government should not proceed with the work in the manner proposed. They have let 125 miles in British Columbia, that will cost from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 alone. The Government have a strong power at their back, and can carry any measure they choose; but I warn them that the feeling of the country is hostile to their proceeding with this work to the extent they are doing. There is some excuse for opening up the North-West Territories with railway communication, but to construct a line across the Rocky Mountains is an undertaking the Exchequer of the country cannot bear, and it would deprive other portions of the Dominion of necessary appropriations for public works. Look at the Estimates, and what do we find. New Brunswick is utterly neglected in regard to public works. We are contributing to the expenditure of the Pacific Railway and we get nothing in return. The people of this country ask the Government to pause in their too reckless Railway policy. They ask us to open up the Great North-West coast for the reception of the emigration to the country. But, Sir, is it any benefit to the people of this unsettled portion of the Dominion; is it any benefit to the people of our own Provinces? It is not. I am sorry to say that the exodus of our people from this country is absolutely alarming. What benefit is this Railway policy to the people of the Lower Provinces. It may suit the North-West. It may suit land speculators and lead to an increase of population there, but it will injure the country from which that population migrates. I will undertake to say that one-half of the people who went to Manitoba, last year, were people from the Dominion of Canada. It seems

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH.

certain, however, that the Government will cross the Rocky Mountains, and they suggest that they have some means of getting \$38,000,000 from emigrants and \$32,000,000 by promissory notes besides, but this is a delusion. I had intended, in connection with the remarks I made, to ask the hon. the Finance Minister when he became a Protectionist? I would like, however, to ask the hon. the first Minister, because I believe he would like to give an answer according to his honest convictions, whether he became a Protectionist until he found that it was absolutely necessary to invoke some agency as a means of defeating the late Government.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I can answer that question at once. Sir Alexander Galt announced that the policy of the Government in 1859 was Canada for Canadians; that it was so to adjust the Tariff as to incidentally assist our Canadian industries. That policy, as I said was announced in 1859 and it has been our unvarying policy ever since.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: Is it possible that my hon. friend can state to this House and the country that those were his honest convictions in 1859, and that he did not give effect to those convictions until 1878. Why did you not introduce Protection before, if these were your views?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Because the United States by their action relieved us from the necessity of doing so; because we had a market there whether or no.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH: The hon. gentleman kept his convictions in abeyance for twenty years. Surely the hon. gentleman must have been recreant to his duty to his country if he felt that the principle of Protection should form the basis of the fiscal policy of the country, to allow those convictions to remain in abeyance for so long a time. The hon. gentleman has changed his policy. We are told by the hon. member for Cumberland (Sir Charles Tupper) that Sir Alexander Galt is one of the greatest financiers that ever lived, that he is a heaven-born financier, and he further says that the hon. the Minister of Finance was perfectly justified in consulting Sir Alexander Galt with regard to the fiscal policy of the country.