

a party point of view—the lowest point of view—I feel that these gentlemen, by following the course they propose, are promoting the interests of the party now in power, just as they promoted our interests when they placed themselves in antagonism to the National Policy, which the great mass of the people desired. But I say I am disappointed at their course. I regret it, notwithstanding that it conduces to the interests of our own party. On past occasions I made the most earnest appeal in my power to those gentlemen to sink on one great national question partizan feelings, and to enable both sides of this House and both parties of this country to unite in a great measure that did not require to be dragged down into the arena of party, and which would be promoted, and largely promoted by a combination of both of the great parties in this country. The hon. gentlemen refused to respond to that appeal, and therefore I will not waste time on the present occasion by pointing out to them how desirable it is now; but I did hope when we abandoned this railway as a Government work, and when it became a commercial undertaking it would be otherwise; and one of the reasons—one of the great necessities for changing our base, one of the great necessities to place this work on a commercial footing at the earliest opportunity—was that we became aware, from the events of the last two Sessions, that while we dealt with it as a Government railway it was to be dragged down from its high position to the arena of partizan politics. In order to obstruct the Government, in order to prevent our carrying out the policy as we were carrying it out, these gentlemen were driven to assume the unpatriotic attitude of decrying the credit and capabilities of our country and damaging the prospects of this great work. I am glad that we have triumphed over such opposition, and that despite that obstruction we have surmounted the great difficulty—that despite all the obstruction they could throw in our way, the time has come when enlightened capitalists, best acquainted with the resources of Canada, are prepared to throw themselves into the construction of this great railway. I say, I was in hopes now that we have abandoned it as a Government work and it is placed on a commercial foundation, that those gentlemen could, without loss to party prestige, unite with us on this great question and on giving to this Syndicate, who are charged with this important and