

of the people's representatives month after month and Session after Session; every sixpence of which has been endorsed by the House, by this Senate, and by the hon. gentleman himself, we are asked to give a Committee to overhaul this matter, and before the thing has been enquired into, we have had it sent abroad to the country—and the hon. gentleman has tried to do it in his speeches here—that this is one of the greatest jobs—

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Blunders.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—He says “blunders” to-day, and I do not blame him that he tries to use more parliamentary language. I accept the language he uses to-day, but it is entirely different from what appears in this pamphlet, which has been sent to England and over the country in thousands of copies, not as a blunder, but something very much stronger.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Yes.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I have never heard such a tribute to the character of any Administration who honestly desired to do what they could for their country, as in what the hon. gentleman has read here to-day.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Oh ! oh !

Hon. Mr. BROWN—It is so ; I don't know a case. The hon. gentleman read report after report, speech after speech, showing that the Government even changed their minds on this from time to time. I wish it had been the case with other Administrations. This Government, when a doubt came across their minds, whether they were proceeding rightly, hesitated before going forward any further, yet the hon. gentleman complains of this. He complained of the stoppage of work in November—

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I did not complain of the stoppage, but that the work was proceeded with.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—The hon. gentleman said the work was stopped in November and resumed in April. Well, I fancy work is generally stopped in that country in November, and commenced again in the spring. Can it be forgotten the way this Administration came into power ? Will it be forgotten that they came with a burden thrown upon them which has been borne by few Ad-

ministrations in any country in the world ! They came with a pledge to a handful of people in British Columbia, that a great road—probably, as the hon. gentleman has said, costing something like \$100,000,000—should be commenced within two years, and finished in ten. They were called upon to fulfil the bargain that was made. The hon. gentleman talks about there being no estimate or survey of this lock. He knows he voted this bargain through. His friends proposed it and he helped them to put it through without any estimate, or survey or knowledge of what it was to cost the country. We were committed to the building of that road let it be \$100,000,000 or \$200,000,000. The present Government have endeavoured honestly to fulfil that bargain, while completing those grand canals we are building and which will be monuments to this country which few other countries possess ; while completing the Intercolonial Railway, (which was carried by the hon. gentleman's own friends away round the coast, hugging the water, instead of by the North Shore, which was offered to be done for a bonus of \$8,000,000, but which now costs the country \$22,500,000.)—yet, the hon. gentleman thinks that those who are to complete all that, are to be brought to the bar of public opinion because this blunder (as he calls it) was committed. I say it is no blunder. It is quite clear it has been done with a complete understanding of what they were about. But even if it had been a blunder, it was not from the lips of that hon. gentleman, or any reasonable man, to bring a charge against this Administration that they deserved punishment for. It might be a thing to be regretted. It might be a thing for the hon. gentleman to bring to the House and say “in the midst of this enormous work these men, brought into this position with an immense burden upon them, it is to be regretted, erred.” I consider it extraordinary for men to carry on for five years those great public works, and bring them to the point they have now reached, and that so little can be said against them by the Opposition. I do not blame their opponents for looking so closely into such matters. I would let the hon. gentlemen bring their committees, make motions, and conduct their enquiries as fully as possible. I do not recollect in my career

Hon. Mr. Brown.