

would think from the tone of hon. gentlemen that the proposed expenditure was to be utterly unproductive of good results either in the development of this western region or of lasting good to the Dominion at large. They seem to have forgotten that the largest, the most productive, and in the near future, the most populous part of this "Canada of ours" lies beyond the western limit of the Province of Ontario, west even of the Province, a portion of which I have the honour of representing in this House. It would seem that, in the grubbing of Ontario stumps and the ensnaring of east-coast lobsters, it is apt to be forgotten that, west of the narrow field of petty provincial jealousies, we have a vast empire, rich enough in agricultural and mineral resources to support a population of 100,000,000. Had it ceased to be true that the tread of empire was westward, or, if true, was its progress to be barred by the Rocky Mountains? By what right did hon. gentlemen sneer at the small population of British Columbia, and jeer at her representatives in this House for their manly endeavours in her behalf? Had it not been shown that, man for man, the population of the Pacific Province have contributed more to the support of the General Government than any other. Have they not waited for the fulfilment of the conditions of Union, with a patience all the more admirable, for the mutterings which showed the forbearance to be one of loyal patriotism rather than indifference. By what right, then, do we exclude these transmontane Canadians from our sympathy, and affect to look upon them as a semi-foreign element, more intent upon rifling the public purse than of aiding the common weal. I am afraid that we are all apt to forget that while political British Columbia is bounded on the east by the Rocky Mountains, yet that physical and commercial British Columbia has for its eastern boundary the one hundredth degree of longitude, and that between that point and the Pacific Ocean there is more of wealth of arable land, of timber, of iron, coal, and the precious metals, than in the whole of the rest of the Dominion. They who live in the east forget that our magnificent prairie country, west of the one hundredth degree, is all tributary to the west coast, and that

through some Rocky Mountain Pass and over the portions of the Canadian Pacific Railway, now so severely criticised, its wheat must find its way to the sea, and by the sea to its natural market. In the ten years I have been in Parliament, I have seen the fulfilment of many predictions regarding the Province of Manitoba; and I now venture the prediction, regarding British Columbia, that, if in the ten years to come we make an honest effort to fulfil what we fairly may of the obligations solemnly entered into on her Union, that Province will contribute more to the material wealth of the Dominion, more to the support of the Government, than any of those Provinces which now occupy a front rank in the Union. She is no dowerless bride, this fair Pacific Province; she brought a wealth of resources specially valuable to the rich but useless region on her east, and even if her rocky ranges, so commented upon here, did not contain vast mines of yet undeveloped wealth, she still was necessary as an outlet for the greatest continuous extent of wheat-growing lands the world has seen, which would be useless to us but that a feasible line of Railway has been found to the sea. I shall vote against the Resolution, because I believe the expenditure to be necessary; because the national honour is involved in the attempt, at some measure at least, of our undertaking with British Columbia; because I feel that this branch of our great public works will be as profitable, from its commencement as other detached portions of the natural line, and because this much-belied, patient, long-suffering Province, is for well or for ill, a part and parcel of this Great Dominion, and notwithstanding that nature, as if wearied with the monotony of the prairie, has there thrown the earth's surface into fantastic forms. She has still, as if forecasting the part this Province was to play in the censuring of this Dominion, provided these low passes and natural conditions, which allow the easy curves and low gradients of our great national railway line to the western sea.

*Motion made:*

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go again into Committee of Supply.—(Sir Samuel L. Tilley.)