

THE HON. W. J. BOWSER'S REPLY TO MR. BREWSTER'S CRITICISMS ON THE RAILWAY POLICY

(Extract from "Colonist" of 23rd February, 1912)

Hon. Mr. Bowser said it was not his intention to take up much time. He always felt that because of the unfortunate position of the member for Alberni and the extra work thrown on his shoulders that his criticism was not so severe as it might be, or perhaps the policy of the Government was so nearly perfect that no inroad could be made on it. He did not feel that a party like the Liberals, once so powerful, but now gone to their reward, were of so much importance as to call for much attention. He thought, after the experience of the last election under the leadership of the member for Delta, the hon. gentleman from Alberni would hardly have had the temerity to refer to the Canadian Northern Pacific contract of two years ago. It looked as if that party were still holding a brief for the C. P. R. "He tells us," said the Attorney-General, "that he fears there is going to be a general election, so far as we are concerned there is no fear, but I have a personal fear that when I return to my seat on the right of the Speaker, the smiling countenance of the member for Alberni will not be sitting opposite me." (Laughter.)

He continued that the member for Alberni seemed to have great fear that the promoters of the Pacific Great Eastern were going to make a great profit from the sale of their stock because they were capitalized too high. Even in the east under Dominion guarantee it had been found that \$35,000 a mile would not begin to build some railways, and owing to the nature of some parts of the route of this line to Peace River there were places where it would cost from \$100,000 to \$125,000 a mile. If the member for Alberni knew the condition of the first 35 miles from Vancouver, he would know that \$35,000 a mile would not begin to build a road around the rocky shores of Howe Sound, and the same condition would apply to the Anderson Lake country and other places where heavy rockwork would be required.

A CONTRAST

He would ask the House to contrast the position of the Government on this contract with that of the Government of Sir Wilfrid