

last thrown on the Table of the House, without a report which is worth the paper it is written on, and kept to within ten days of the prorogation of the House when not more than one-third of the members of Parliament were in their places. That is the work of this Government with reference to great railway deals involving the expenditure of vast sums of money. A plea of urgency, a plea of the public weal! Here, Sir, we have it again. A scheme in which secrecy is the prominent factor, in which suddenness is joined with secrecy. In the face of Parliament assembling within ten days, a rush and a route is made to carry the thing through; and worse than all, there is granted a monopoly with two clauses, which clauses of monopoly are in my mind reprehensible from beginning to end. What I consider the strongest *prima facie* case against the Bill is: That a railway 150 miles in length, a bridge standing between two great routes of travel and over which tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of travellers must go and come, is placed under the watch and ward of two gentlemen with a monopoly for ten and five years, and with a subsidy more to be considered and of graver moment than a money subsidy taken from the coffers of this country—a subsidy which consists of the pick of three and three-quarter millions of acres of placer and lode mining country, in that which is supposed to be the richest of all gold countries.

This is the *prima facie* case. There must be something very strong that has not yet been given to this House, which can overthrow that *prima facie* case. As it looks now, it is by all odds the most daring, the worst, and the fullest of possibilities for widespread corruption, of any scheme that has ever been placed before this or any other House of Commons. And as we look upon it now, I am bound, as a member of this House who is jealous that Parliament shall not be robbed of the privileges which it cost so much to gain, who does not wish to be a mere registering machine for the secret compacts of the Government, who does not wish to put into the hands of two men, however reputable they may be—and I am saying nothing against these two enterprising contractors—the strongly auriferous deposits of the richest gold country in the world—so supposed to be; and that supposition is acted upon in this very transaction by the Government itself. Now, Sir, if the Government, when they lay these papers on the Table of the House, have got dynamite under them, or can show that there is some overwhelming state reason why this should be done, it may change my opinion; but I am bound to state that *prima facie* the case is a bad one, and until that bad flavour is taken away, I for my part propose to oppose the scheme.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. LANDERKIN. That is its justification.

Mr. FOSTER. It is well when a man believes himself buoyed up on a sufficient reason.

Now, Sir, the right hon. gentleman says:

Canada is prosperous as never before. Since this Government came in Canada has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. More progress has been made in eighteen months than in any other previous period of her history.

This is only a boast, however. There was not a figure given to sustain the statement. I shall be glad as one citizen of Canada, if that statement can be borne out by the facts. I like to see this country prospering; I would like to see her progress in every succeeding year greater than that of the year before. But let me ask my hon. friend again, as I did earlier in my address, if Canada is prospering, why is it? Canada is prospering because of the impetus given to her prosperity by the rich mining development of the country, which began in 1890, in the celebrated Slo-can district in British Columbia, and which, by prospecting, by patient endeavour and by the reaching out after indications and the explorations following thereupon, with the employment of courageous labour and capital, has been expanded in its area, until to-day in British Columbia proper, we suppose, with reason, that we have one of the greatest mineral regions in the world. The same thing applies to portions of Ontario—and I am speaking now simply of the new developments, not of the old; and to this we now add later development of the great country to the north, including the so-called Yukon district, and the district lying to the south of it, between that district and British Columbia proper. This mining development has added a life and energy and impetus to the prospective prosperity of Canada which is having an undoubtedly exalting and uplifting effect on the business interests of the whole country. But have the hon. gentlemen in their eighteen months of power brought all this about? The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) was good enough to say, either in Nicolet or in Lévis, that gold, too, had been discovered since this party came into power; and I have no doubt that his audience, looking up into his honest face, paid the greatest deference to that statement, and wondered what a demi-god indeed they were privileged to have as a member of the Government, who, with a power greater than that of the genii of old, when once he came into a position of trust and emolument, passed his wand lightly over the stretches of British Columbia, up the regions of the Seine and Rainy River, and even to the far-away snows and mountains of the Yukon, and conjured to the surface the glittering and shining gold.