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Carvell on the Valley Railway

The Federal Government stands ready to give assistance to bridges to be built over the St. John and the Konnebecasis rivers. They so told the local government representatives last week. In fact there is a standing offer under the subsidy act of last year by the Dominion Government, whereby they may assist in the erection of any bridges if they wish to do so. They say what inducement is there for any company to build this road? I have shown to you how it is possible for the road to pay. Now they say you have nobody to build this road. My answer to that is, there is a company called the Quebec and New Brunswick Railway Company of which Mr. Malcolm is the manager. You have all seen it in the newspapers, they have agreed to build this road, taking the bond guarantee and the subsidy. They say Mr. Malcolm is a man of straw. I can only say Mr. Malcolm has just completed the construction of the International railway, a road which cost \$23,800 per mile. All he got to build that with was \$6,400 a mile subsidy, and a bond guarantee of \$4,000. It cost him over and above the subsidy and the bond guarantee \$1,000. Mr. Fleming at Fredericton knows who is behind Mr. Malcolm, that he has behind him a man who is well able to finance the road, they know that it is a gentleman who lives in Toronto a very wealthy man, the owner of the leading conservative paper in Ontario. They have dealings with him, they have met him and they know that he has got the money. If they did not believe this man was able to finance the road, the first thing they would have done would have been to accept the proposition and then find out, instead of resorting to the miserable subterfuge they have resorted to. They could have accepted the proposition and have asked Mr. Malcolm to put up his money the next day.

If they knew that he was unable to do so, they knew they had him. I can tell you that if they want collateral Mr. Malcolm can put dollar for dollar and that he has the money and is ready to put it into the road.

If they will accept this offer in two months they can begin to build this road all the way down the river from Grand Falls to St. John. It is no use trying to hide behind any subterfuge. (Applause.)

I want you, as business men, to think this thing over. Take the two propositions. You have one, the C. P. R. down the river with lower freight rates, lower passenger rates, with a splendid service from Grand Falls to St. John, all through the province connecting with the G. T. P. with all that advantage, and built without costing the people of this province one dollar. Why on earth don't these men accept that offer.

Why do they want to saddle on this province another C. P. R. road costing from four to five millions to the province? I leave this for you to think over. It is not for the benefit of the country traversed by the road, it is not for the benefit of the country at large. It is for the benefit of the C. P. R.

It must be for the benefit of the men who are behind the deal. There is no getting around that. Something has happened. I don't know what it is. I don't want to say hard things; I will leave you to draw your own conclusions. Something has happened. Something happened nearly two years ago, and something has been happening about every month since. There has never been a meeting of the legislature, there has hardly been a meeting of the local government for past two years, that there is not a C. P. R. official sitting around. There has never a member of the Local Legislature gone to Ottawa or Montreal but there is a high official of the C. P. R. on the train. Four members of the government were at Ottawa recently and the C. P. R. was there. They did not send any minor official either, they sent Mr. McNicholl the vice-president of the road. From the time they left Montreal to Ottawa till they got back to Montreal it was the C. P. R. and nobody else. The local government has asked that while under the legislation they asked the road is to go from Grand Falls to St. John, has asked that we change our grant of the subsidy so that it will be applicable for any portion of the road, and that means from River de Chute to Westfield or Welsford. The local has asked the Federal government to accept this condition and agree to their request to change the law and give them a chance to help the C. P. R. and thus shut us out forever from any competition. I don't know what the government is going to do for the matter has not been decided. Mr. Fleming has been around this county and has told the people that they are going to sign a contract. I want to tell you they are not going to sign a contract, just now, no matter what he will tell you. There are certain

preliminaries before they do sign a contract. I think the people of this province can trust the government and members at Ottawa to safeguard their interests, if these men down here who have sworn that they will safeguard your interests, do not do so. We do not propose to allow the interests of this country to be sacrificed unless it is absolutely necessary to do so. (Applause.) I might go on further but negotiations are still in progress, and as these negotiations advance the people will know what is being done. There will be no more private letters. I do not intend to go into this private letter matter, but I take full responsibility for making the contents of the letter public. (Applause.) That letter was sent to me at the House of Commons the same time it was sent to Mr. Hazen, the same day it was sent to him, not a copy but the original, signed by Mr. Malcolm, to be used in the railway committee of the House of Commons in having his bill put through for the charter for his road. I used it publicly at Ottawa, I sent a copy to Mr. Tweedale at Fredericton and I have no apologies to offer to Mr. Fleming or Mr. Hazen or any other gentleman for doing it. It is too serious a matter to refuse to make it public. I can readily understand how the government would not wish that letter to be given to the people of New Brunswick, and if it had not come out as it did, it would have still been in the pigeon holes in Mr. Hazen's office.

I am sure you will see that the Federal government is trying to protect your interests, and if the people of Carleton county are to have a railway from Grand Falls to St. John, it will be built in spite of Mr. Hazen and Mr. Fleming. I don't want to discuss the matter any further with you. I agreed that I would not take more than three quarters of an hour and for once in my life time I am going to try and keep my word. I know you are all anxious to hear Mr. Guthrie's speech, but I am going to tell Mr. Cowan that when he said that lambs and sheep were worth \$1.50 more in this county than in Aroostook he was decidedly wrong; and that he was wrong when he said that we would suffer by reciprocity for our shingle industry would be destroyed. Cedar shingles have come in free of duty to Canada for the past twenty years, they were made free by the Conservative government twenty years ago. They make an argument as to what may happen if this pact goes into force. I want to refer to the agreement. A gentleman came into my office yesterday and said, 'I hope this agreement will go through for it will make my property higher.' I don't think I need argue that before a county of Carleton audience. You all know that as a general rule potatoes are a higher price in Aroostook than in this county. This year, it is true, owing to the failure of the crop in Alberta and Saskatchewan, they have been higher on this side, but that is not likely to happen again in years.

[Here Mr. Carvell read the correspondence between Messrs. Fielding and Patterson and President Taft as to the terms of the proposed agreement and their understanding of it.]

Either party can end this agreement at any time it chooses. We are trying to get the farmers of this county a better market than they have ever had, and we are trying to get the lumbermen a better market for their lumber. It is true that we let the same things come in free from the United States, but you know that in the matter of lumber the only solitary item that comes in is southern pine, and no farm produce comes into Carleton county except a few potatoes this year and perhaps, four years ago. I tell you I know of nothing in the way of farm produce that comes into this county from the United States other than the items I have named. If anyone can think of any item let him come to my office and tell me of it tomorrow. Why they actually said raw cotton was a natural product. Well it is, but was raw cotton in Carleton County. Such is an illustration of the arguments presented by our opponents as a reason why this agreement should not be ratified. We claim that everything is to our benefit and nothing to our detriment. Take the things you farmers raise. Take hay. I would like to know if I got a telegram informing me that the duty was taken off hay, I don't believe I could say anything which would raise such a cheer as that would. All the tons of hay you can sell now, you can get five or six dollars for, you know if the duty was taken off you could get \$1 more than you are getting today. Horses—you know if that duty were moved you could get \$30 or \$40 more for your horse, for your lambs you could get 75c. more and, for your sheep \$1.50 more. There is no other place for your horses to go. Last year one horse was sent into England and it was worth \$75. We sent hundreds of thousands of

dollars worth into the United States. Take your short lumber. You know you have to pay \$1.25 to get it over there. Last year we sent 15,000,000 to England and 18,000,000 to the United States. Take any lumberman you know and ask him what will be the effect if that duty of \$1.25 is taken off lumber. In other lines you will find exactly the same condition of affairs. I know the answer to this. While admitting it is a good thing for the farmer, I can understand the people in small towns will say it will raise the price of our food.

And here I can understand the feeling of a man who says, 'I have always been a Tory and my family was Tory and I don't want to change my political faith,' but in this matter I am speaking to you as farmers and business men. If you sell millions of dollars worth of potatoes to the United States, it means more money in circulation, and here I turn again to the argument of the residents in the town. I am going to answer that in this way. How many potatoes does an ordinary family use? Say half a dozen barrels. That would cost him three dollars a barrel a year more. He would pay a little more for the few turnips he uses. He might have to pay more for his butter and something more for his eggs. It might increase the price of butter three or four cents and eggs two or three cents. I don't believe there is a man in Woodstock who can figure up his increased cost at more than \$20 a year. But every farmer will have a great deal more to spend. Money will be more plentiful with him and he will buy more in the town of Woodstock and that will far more than offset the increased cost of living. Better wages will be paid, I want to ask you one question. You know there are 50 or 100 people who have left the town of Woodstock and have gone to the town of Houlton. They left to better their condition, not because they would not rather work here. How many men are working in this town who have come from Houlton in the last four years. Yet these people who have gone over there are paying the prices which it is said will be so big for us to pay.

'Oh but,' they say, 'if this agreement goes into force and is in force three or four or ten years it will tend to annexationist sentiment, at all events rather than have it rescinded.' 40 years ago a reciprocity treaty was rescinded and it began to get along pretty well, ourselves. Our grandfathers did not prove annexationists when the treaty was rescinded, and if this were repeated we would meet it as true British subjects. I tell you and I may say it sincerely I want this pact to go through. I am in earnest about this. It is said that lawyers sometimes say things they do not believe and that politicians sometimes argue for a principle they do not believe. However that may be this is something with which I am in perfect accord. I believe I am as loyal a British subject as is in this building tonight and I don't think any man would charge me to endanger our connection with Great Britain. If ever I believed in anything in my life it is in this reciprocity agreement which we have agreed to put through and which we will put through in the next three or four months. I believe it will make the greatest change for the better in the economic conditions of this country that has ever taken place in your lifetime or in mine. I can only say it is going through or we are to go under in endeavoring to do it. If there is any gentleman in this county, any conservative who believes it will not so through he is fearfully mistaken. They say they will fight this thing to the bitter end. Under our system 45 men can delay the government in putting this thing through. It is only a question of physical strength. If we got it to a vote we could put it through at once. If this were in England the government would give them about six or seven days to discuss the matter and then take a vote. They did that with the Veto Bill. The United States is about the same. Unfortunately in Canada unless we change our ways we cannot put it through until the Opposition cease talking on it. It is rather a peculiar condition of affairs. But every man in Canada has the right of free speech as a British subject, yet if the Opposition persists in its course there is going to be a general election and as far as I am concerned it cannot come one day too soon to suit me. I have sufficient faith in the intelligence and judgment of the people of this county to believe when this matter is put up to them they will vote in favor of the agreement. If on the other hand it was turned down, if I went to defeat on it tomorrow I would still say it was the best thing that we ever had before us. And while I am as desirous of election as any man, if my defeat would mean the passing of this pact I would willingly go down to defeat.

There is going to be the liveliest fight here if there is an election on this question; and if I can judge the temper of the people from what I see here tonight and all over the country, and the letters I am receiving from all over the province, I have no fear that it is going to be defeated. They cannot bring on the election one day too soon, I have to say to the people of this county that I have this cause very much at heart. In conclusion I must repeat I am more than pleased to see so many people here to-

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I know you will be pleased to hear from my friend Mr. Guthrie who will discuss this matter from a national standpoint, while I have discussed it from a local standpoint, for the liberal party is not going to try and put something through because it will help one part of the country at the expense of another part, but they are proposing a policy which will help all Canada, while I believe no where will it be more productive of good than in this province of New Brunswick. (Applause.)

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