

this House were largely influenced in their views—I do not mean to say *mala fide* or otherwise than honestly, but nevertheless they were largely influenced by existing railways; and that influence which was nearly being successfully used here to stifle all the new enterprises, and which nearly succeeded in stifling several important ones, some of which were only able to obtain mutilated charters by a majority of one vote in this Chamber, would have been entirely successful at Quebec or Ottawa, where it would have been impossible, having regard to the position we occupied constitutionally before the 1st July, 1867, for the larger number of those important enterprises which owe their origin to charters of this House, to have taken the first step, for I am convinced that they would have been strangled by the dominant influence which existing railways possessed in connection with the Legislature of the former Province of Canada. Then, in calling the attention of hon. gentlemen to these expenditures which we are making in all directions, to the accumulation of our resources, and to the consequent strengthening of the position of this portion, at least, of the Dominion, I think I may congratulate this House and the country upon the statement I have been able to introduce to them on this occasion; and I think that such statements are the best answers to those extremely malicious and ignorant articles of a leading journal in the British metropolis. (Hear, hear.) I do not know whether hon. members have read an article which appeared in *The Times* newspaper a few weeks since, and which assumed to belittle the position of Canada and Canadians; which ascribed to them, in consequence of their political connection with the Mother Country, a position anything but one of self-reliance; which spoke of their want of intelligence and their dependent condition. I ask hon. gentlemen, and any one who understands the true position of the Provinces which constitute the Dominion, and especially if he understands the position which this Province occupies, and knows the amount which it contributes for the purpose of making education free to every child in the land, whether we are a people that could become more intelligent by any change in our political position? When the public generally understand that we have added so much to our wealth, have added so much to our actual cash accumulations in the past seven years, have nearly doubled our resources in that respect, and when they learn that from our own resources we are adding to the mileage of railways in this Province nearly 1,500 miles within the last