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proposing, and should the necessity arise, we shall not shrink from providing another.

Sir, we give them this contract, made in good faith, not with empty promoters, not with people who are irresponsible, but with men who are the most capable railway men in Canada, with men who have given every guarantee of good faith, with men who are prepared to back their undertaking in a manner no company ever did before.

We say we are prepared to go before the people to-day with this policy in the fullest confidence that it is a policy which has been wisely considered, that its provisions will stand investigation, that the cost to the country is not excessive, and that we firmly believe we will be able to give to the Dominion of Canada one of the greatest achievements in its history.

Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick.

As a result of the construction of this railway we will open up for settlement enormous areas in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West Territories and British Columbia, and by opening up these territories, by giving this country breadth as well as length, we will give an answer to those who have said that Canada is a mere fringe of habitable territory on the northern frontier of the United States of America.

The people have cried out for a railway and we have realized it is a real grievance they complain of.

Now, what we desire to do is to open up our hinterland and give breadth as well as length to Canada, to connect the various portions of this country together, not merely by bonds of iron and steel, which are always liable to the corroding effects of time, but to draw them together by a tie that time does not affect except to strengthen, and the force of which increases as years roll by, and as generation succeeds to generation we can each contribute to those bonds which are woven out of human flesh and blood. The hand stretched out to us from Western Canada we grasp in all amity and friendship, because we desire that their trade, that their affections, that their political sympathy, should turn towards the east rather than towards the south.

Sir William Mulock.

The occasion demands action. We have a tide of immigration flowing into Canada to-day exceeding that flowing into any other country in the world. Let this tide of immigration be checked and how many years will be lost before the movement can be started again? Now is the time to strike.

Canada to-day is a country of promise; and it is because it is a country of promise, because our outlook is so bright, we have been able to make such a satisfactory bargain. Now that we have the opportunity, let us clinch the bargain. Let us strike while the iron is hot, get the railway completed at the earliest moment, and give permanency to that prosperity and development which now so happily blesses this country.

Hon. William Paterson.

The commerce of this country, Mr. Speaker, is growing at such a marvellous rate that additional transportation facilities are urgently demanded. This is a fact which is patent to all.