

Under existing circumstances we would therefore call upon our sister Province, instead of upbraiding us because we will not undertake an impossible task, and even this prematurely; instead of menacing us with a withdrawal from the Union, which could be of no earthly practical advantage to herself; instead of insulting us with threats of Imperial coercion, rather to rise equal to the occasion and to join with us in urging upon the Home authorities the imperative necessity of coming to the rescue—and in the meanwhile, pending the issue of the negotiations with the Home authorities, and our ability to undertake this formidable task of construction through British Columbia, to accept a fair annual grant for the building of roads, bridges, and other local improvements, far more in keeping with her present population and true requirements, than a long and costly railway, which, were it built, it would be impossible to operate for many years to come.

It is only by mutual forbearance that we can hope to hold together; and it is in this early stage of our national existence, when our mutual interests are only beginning to dawn upon us, that this spirit of forbearance is imperatively needed. If justice, moderation and fair play to all parts and all classes do not prevail in the councils of the nation, the days of the Dominion are already numbered.

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