

brought this matter before the House in an inconsiderate manner. I have followed him closely, and I think on the whole he has placed details before the House which are worthy of careful consideration on the part of the Government; because if that tunnel can be constructed for \$2,000,000, it will be the best spent money that Parliament has ever voted. I am delighted at having had an opportunity to hear my hon. friend submit his project to the House in a detailed manner. When we were considering the question of Confederation there was the greatest imaginable difference of opinion about the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. On that occasion, as the official report of the Confederation debates will show, I was of the opinion that there was no risk whatever in constructing that road, and I supported my view with the details of what I knew the railways of the world were doing, and had done. From the manner in which my hon. friend has gone into this question he deserves that every consideration should be extended to him. And we should not reject a scheme of this kind if it is feasible. To my mind it is quite possible that the project may be worked out in a most satisfactory manner.

I think it would be well if the Government would look into it. We have in our country one of the most eminent engineers on the continent, Mr. Walter Shanly, who so successfully carried to completion the famous Hoosac tunnel, after the American engineers had failed, and if the matter were referred to him he could look into the details of the project, and report as to its feasibility. From my personal knowledge of his ability as an engineer, and his thorough integrity of character, I am confident that the Government could rely on any statement he would make on the subject.

HON. MR. POWER—I did not propose to say anything on this subject until the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudière seemed to express on behalf of the Province of Quebec the opinion that we should be quite prepared to spend two or three millions of dollars for this object. And I am somewhat surprised to find that the Nestor of the House to whom we might look for counsels of prudence seems to endorse the view of the hon. gentleman

from DeLanaudière. I quite agree with the hon. gentlemen who have spoken who say that the hon. gentleman from Alberton deserves a great deal of credit for the very satisfactory way in which he has put his scheme before the Senate. When that hon. gentleman undertakes to do a thing he does it thoroughly, as he has done in this instance. I think that what the hon. gentleman asked, that the Government should make a survey, is not altogether an unreasonable request. Perhaps before making the survey the Government would do well to have the opinion of some other engineers as to the feasibility of my hon. friend's scheme. Probably an engineer of as good standing as Mr. Vernon Smith would not have endorsed the scheme if it were not practicable; but there are engineers, like Mr. Page for instance, whose opinions would be of great value. The doctrine laid down by the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudière is to my mind a most extraordinary one. He says that because we have been guilty of extravagance in the North-West therefore we should immediately be extravagant in the south-east. Now, I think too much money has been spent in the North-West and in a great many other quarters of the Dominion; but, if we expect this Confederation to hold together, the time has come when we should be a little cautious about rushing into these expenditures. Our debt is increasing with tremendous rapidity. Taxation is increasing; and our financial future is anything but cheerful, so that this would be an unfortunate time to undertake heavy expenditures. Already the feeling has grown in some of the Provinces, and is beginning to grow even in Ontario that Confederation costs rather more than it is worth; and, if we are to do a great deal more for the Province of Prince Edward Island and go into expenditures of this kind, the feeling will grow as to that Island at any rate. When Prince Edward Island came into the Union she came in on most advantageous terms, one of which was that this communication with the mainland was to be maintained. The Government made an effort to maintain the communication; that effort has not been altogether successful. Two years ago a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to deal with this matter. They sat for a number

of  
ma  
con  
or  
com  
trie  
is t  
still  
will  
they  
feas  
be n  
slow  
Can  
agai  
natu  
Ther  
son's  
that  
pros  
to un  
the f  
Prov  
land,  
If w  
reason  
are n

Ho  
terms

Ho  
reason  
just y  
exper  
Island  
ton re  
Railw  
than i  
while  
more  
munic  
deal n  
is abou

Ho  
a class

Ho  
superi  
perhap  
to the  
so muc  
Island,  
spent f  
115,000  
been do