

works and improvements, so essential to the advancement of the country, deserves support. Sir, I feel these great works with their costly contracts and their expensive extras, have been used but as a means by Ministers to strengthen and secure their position. How many friends had been rewarded, favourites enriched, and opponents conciliated and converted through them would be difficult to tell, and, Sir, there are those even who seem to think that if this Government were overthrown, none other could be found to supply their places, and that if such a thing should occur, the prosperity, advancement and business of the country would almost cease; that the fruits of the earth would hardly mature, and that nature, paralysed by the shock, would almost forget her functions. Sir, the wealth and resources of the country, the energy, enterprise, and intelligence of our people are by many not fully understood or appreciated. I believe that, if by some sudden calamity every member in this House should be hurried into eternity, where another twelve months elapsed another session would find our places filled with perhaps wise and better men.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my province, even were I able, to endeavour to influence hon. gentlemen on this side of the House who support the Government, or to accuse those, as they have been accused, of wrong-doing and improper motives, or of betraying the high trust committed to their keeping. I shall not therefore dilate upon the purchase or the price of the memorable though perhaps mythical 27, or appeal to those, if any, against whom it has been charged that their only motive was self-interest, and that their support is given either on account of favours received or of benefits to be conferred.

I know, Sir, there are many honourable, high minded, and conscientious men who, from party fealty, love, attachment, and devotion to their chief, and that chivalrous feeling which forbids them to desert a friend in his extremity, will tenaciously cling to the waning fortunes of their party with a constancy and determination fixed and unchangeable. Sir, I respect and esteem these men; I only fear that they allow their feelings, to which I have referred, to blind them as to what in this grave crisis is due to their country and themselves; and, Sir, there are other equally honourable, high-minded and conscientious men who from a lofty sense of their duty, and from their honest and candid convictions, regardless of the taunts and invectives hurled against them, have stood nobly forth and dared to sever party ties and political associations. Mr. Speaker, I also honour and respect these men, and though they be accused of deserting their former party and principles, and, as it has been termed, hounding down and hunting, shall I say to his moral death, their former chief and leader, they can truly say, even were the latter assertions true, in the spirit of the noble Roman, "We have done it, not because we love Caesar less, but Rome more."

Mr. Speaker, if so calamitous a thing for the honour and standing of the country should occur, or which, though, I have little fear, that a majority of this House should be found to condone the offenses of the Government by supporting and sustaining them, I should indeed despair of my country did I not know and feel, the opinion of the hon. member for Pictou (Hon. Mr. McDonald) to the contrary

notwithstanding, that to the people whose servants we are, may be safely confided the task of redeeming the honour and reputation of our country. Sir, what I desire and believe the country demands is an honest, pure, and economical Government, composed of competent, high-minded and patriotic men, to whom the interests and honour of the country would be paramount to Party exigencies or Party triumphs and who would zealously, energetically and as speedily as the finances of the country would allow, push on to the completion the great works now under way or projected, and which the trade, the commerce, the development and settlement of the country require. Sir, to a Government so composed, I could give a hearty and generous support. Sir, I have done. I trust I have said nothing unparliamentary or disrespectful; if so it was unintentional. I have only expressed my honest and conscientious opinions and convictions, and entertaining those opinions and convictions I can no longer either countenance or support the Government of the day. (*Loud cheers.*)

**Mr. SMITH (Selkirk)** explained his position with reference to the Canada Pacific Railway Company, and said he had taken the ground that all the Directors should be British, and that no one Director should hold more than one proxy. With respect to the transactions between the Government and Sir Hugh Allan, he did not consider that the First Minister took the money with any corrupt motive. He knew that Sir Hugh Allan at one time looked so coldly upon the Railway enterprise that he really thought of giving up the charter. Sir Hugh had told him that if the proposition made was carried out, he would not accept it. In every instance that he knew of the provisions were made more and more stringent when against Sir Hugh Allan. (*Government cheers.*) He then referred to Manitoba affairs, and said that there was an unfortunate condition of things there. He felt that the leader of the Government was incapable of taking money from Allan for corrupt purposes.

He would be most willing to vote for the amendment of the member for Pictou (Hon. Mr. McDonald) (*loud Government cheers*) could he do so conscientiously. (*Opposition cheers and laughter.*) It was with very great regret that he felt he could not do so. He repeated that he did not believe there was any intention to give the charter to Sir Hugh Allan as a consideration for his money; but on the other hand, to take money from an expectant contractor, was a very grave impropriety. (*Cheers.*) For the honour of the country, no Government should exist that has a shadow of a suspicion of this kind resting on them, and for that reason he could not vote for the amendment of the member for Pictou. (*Cheers.*)

**Hon. Mr. POPE (Prince County)** did not think he would be discharging his duty in giving a silent vote. He believed the policy of the right hon. leader of the Government had done much to promote the interests of the country. He then entered upon a recital of the particulars of the Pacific Scandal, and concurred with the Government in the course they had taken.

He regretted that there should be any division amongst the members for Prince Edward Island, as he believed they would have been able to have accomplished much more in the interests of the