

return, none whatever, until all-rail connection be made through. The hon. Secretary of State gives us the authority for the expenditure, the vote by Parliament of the money; but supposing they had asked and obtained the money, surely, when the facts were known, when the entire worthlessness of the scheme became apparent on examination and survey, they should have stopped proceedings and saved the country's money. I, therefore, support the hon. Senator's motion, but have to ask that another name be substituted for mine on the committee.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I would suggest the name of Mr. Macfarlane, instead of Mr. McLelan.

The resolution was changed as suggested by the mover.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I confess, hon. gentlemen, that so far as I am personally concerned, I exceedingly rejoice that this discussion has been brought on. For some years I have not taken a deep personal interest in public affairs, and I have only a very general knowledge of what has been proceeding those years. I have been noticing very violent attacks that have been made upon the Government with regard to this work of late, with some apprehension. I read a pamphlet, which was sent broadcast over the country, with regard to this very work, and I got an idea there had been something frightfully wrong with respect to this part of the Pacific Railway scheme.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—So there is.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I found in that pamphlet something like this:—

“Is it possible that he (Mr. Mackenzie) did not know that to connect Rainy Lake with Lac des Mille Lacs, for the purposes of navigation, 400 feet perpendicular have to be overcome? Did Mr. Mackenzie know that the work he spoke of accomplishing in ‘a few years’ and ‘years before’ the railway is completed between Port Savanne and Keewatin (Rat Portage) involved the construction of canals through seven miles or more of rock, and the building of forty locks, each of ten feet lift?”

“When declaring it to be the policy of the Government to carry out this stupendous undertaking, surely it was Mr. Mackenzie's duty to tell the country how many millions it would cost to construct the canals and the forty locks required to enable ‘steamers’ from Rainy Lake to ascend four hundred feet to the top of the hill whereon Lac des Mille Lacs reposes.”

Hon. Mr. McLelan.

Well, sir, it was very alarming. Millions upon millions to be expended on this work with, the hon. gentleman declared over and over again, no object.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Quite true.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—The hon. gentleman says it is “quite true.” I have noticed his speech to-day. I have watched every word which fell from him. I have heard what fell from others, and I confess the whole thing oozed away like the soft breezes that come to our ears on a summer evening. It is hard to tell what the hon. gentleman has to complain of against the Administration in this matter. It turns out that instead of millions being involved, the whole amount expended on this work has been \$180,000.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—No, \$227,000.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—The hon. gentleman says “\$227,000.” That is the character of the figures I find in this pamphlet. The hon. gentleman insists that the amount is \$227,000, though it is only this moment the hon. Secretary of State, who ought to be believed by this Chamber, made deductions from the amount which brought it down to \$180,000.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I stated that the expenditure was \$163,662 to the 30th of June last. That is what appears in the Public Accounts.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—The hon. gentleman said that, it is quite true, but he said he had not the last six months' expenditure, and he had no doubt there were very large sums to be added to it. He asks how much has been paid up to this moment, and the Secretary of State gives the amount, and says deductions bring it to \$180,000. Now, do not let us go away from the point. The matter we have under discussion is the expenditure of \$180,000 for a public work which the Premier believed in his heart was necessary in the interest of the country to fulfil the bargain that was made with our fellow colonists in the great North-West. The hon. gentleman says: “I have no doubt Mr. Mackenzie wished to do this, and to do it as soon as possible”; and so, for an expenditure of \$180,000, which was gone about with this honest intention, which was submitted to Parliament from the very first, and obtained the approval