

Last session many Conservatives were very sore at the fact that the Crow's Nest Railway job—I call it a job—had the unqualified endorsement of the leader of the Opposition. We who were here wished to oppose that project; we thought the hon. gentleman would see his way to oppose that project. But an effort was made to make of us a registering machine for the decrees of hon. gentlemen opposite. I do not wish to be put any longer in that position. When the Crow's Nest Pass was up, the leader of the Opposition closed his speech then in these words:

I do not intend to detain the committee in listening to my very voice further than to say that I regard the measure now submitted to the committee as of such great importance that I am not disposed to deal with it too critically, nor have I the means at my disposal to do so. I can only say that if this is the best proposal that can be submitted to secure the prompt construction of the road, I for one am prepared to give it my humble support.

When is this perpetual support to these Canadian Pacific Railway deals to end, especially when they are proposed by hon. gentlemen opposite and supported by our friends on this side of the House? We have got to decide on some settled policy in regard to these matters on this side of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACLEAN. Yes, and the first plank of that policy will be to trust Parliament and to give every contractor in this country a fair opportunity to tender for Government work. The people in Ontario are altogether in favour of a change in regard to the policy of the Opposition on railway matters. We have got something at stake. We propose—at least some of us propose—to educate the people in regard to these railway questions. We are trying to introduce something that is progressive and in the interest of the people, and not in the interest of the great Canadian Pacific monopoly. We propose to condemn such unconstitutional propositions as the one now before the House. If it had not been for such papers as the Toronto "World," which had the courage to speak out, which had the courage to check the hon. gentleman, the Conservative press of this country would have been silenced in connection with this deal. Indeed, an effort was made to silence the Conservative press, an effort was made to drag them into this deal, but thank God, there is not to-day a Conservative paper in Canada that approves of the deal, and there is not a Conservative paper in Canada that approves of the conduct of the hon. gentleman in rushing forward to sanction this project, or his conduct in going about the country to give it his approval, as he did in Montreal, and especially when his own friends, like the writer of that article signed "Onlooker," when newspapers all over the country were

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getting ready to denounce this most iniquitous proposal, as I consider it to be. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of some pain to me to make an explanation of this kind. It requires some courage in a member of this House or in a newspaper to state frankly and boldly what he or it thinks. The "World" may not have said what it desired to say in a way that would please the hon. gentleman. Newspapers have got to act quickly sometimes; public opinion must be stirred, and sometimes they have to say things that they cannot directly prove. But if the hon. gentleman has any complaint to make, he must blame it on himself, and especially must he blame himself when he finds the Toronto "Globe" publishing a cartoon which shows the leader of the Government on one side and the hon. gentleman on the other, sanctioning the Government's policy. He should not blame the "World" newspaper for what has happened: he should blame his own indiscretion, and most of all he has himself to blame for not trusting his party, for not consulting his party before he endeavoured to commit them to a policy that is against the public interests of Canada, which is against constitutional practice, and which, if continued, will end in placing this country in the power of the monopoly of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the greatest, the strongest, and most dangerous monopoly in this country to-day.

Mr. FOSTER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.05 a.m. (Saturday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 7th February, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That the Order for the consideration of the motion for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session have precedence over all other business except introduction of Bills.

Motion agreed to.