

on present prudence. Complete the Railway to Red River; go on with the prairie section as fast as settlement demands. For that, risk something; since, as I have said, the die is cast. But in order to succeed in that, in order that you may have a chance later to do more, deal with that alone now. Bend to that great effort your undivided energies, your whole available resources. Postpone, meanwhile, the western work, and do not, by your present action, based on airy dreams and vain imaginations, risk the ruin of your country. Sir, I move, "to leave out all the words after 'that' and insert the following: 'the public interests require that the work of constructing the Pacific Railway in British Columbia should be postponed.'"

MR. BUNSTER: As a humble representative from British Columbia, I rise to offer a few remarks in answer to the hon. member for West Durham. Sir, the amendment proposed by that hon. member, judging from his past action with reference to the Pacific Province, does not surprise me. We all know, and the country knows, how determined has been the hostility of that hon. gentleman to British Columbia interests ever since the Province has entered the Canadian Union. Why he should pursue such a hostile course towards us is hard to fathom. British Columbia asks but little—simply fair play and a fulfilment of Treaty obligations. That is all the British Government expects under the Carnarvon Terms; and let me tell hon. gentlemen that the Imperial authorities are by no means disinterested in this matter, as the building of the Railway is to England something of supreme importance, from an Imperial point of view. It was only last summer that Col. Lovell, C.B., the Commanding Royal Engineer at Halifax, and that able and indefatigable soldier, Col. Strange, Royal Canadian Artillery of Quebec, were sent out to British Columbia to inspect our system of defence for the Province. There had also been visits from other officers in Her Majesty's army, for similar purposes, showing the anxiety on the part of the English Government to preserve British Columbia to the Empire. We all know Capt. Colomb's opinion of British

Columbia. That gentleman, at the Royal Colonial Institute, spoke of British Columbia as being "the hub of the Empire!" Now if British Columbia is so valuable to the Empire, in her present isolated condition, how much more valuable would she be, if rendered more easily accessible by the Pacific Railway. Look at the wonderful progress of California, since she became connected with the outer world by rail—and look again, at what has been done at home, here in Canada, since the construction of the Grand Trunk, the Great Western and the Canada Southern. It may truly be said that Railways have "made" Canada and the United States. It must be remembered in this connection that British Columbia has never come to this Parliament, like Nova Scotia, when on the eve of rebellion, and other Provinces for "better terms." We do not want "better terms," but simply what has been promised to us. The hon. member for West Durham has often gone so far as to heap abuse on our Province. Now I think are all agreed that it is desirable to build the Pacific Railway, to settle and develop the Great North-West. Without that work Canada can never be a great nation. With many of the elements of national greatness, she would still lack unity and cohesiveness; the iron band only can furnish those. The hon. member for West Durham complained of spending nine millions in building the 127 miles in British Columbia, but what about that paltry sum compared with the development of the immense mineral wealth of that Province and the Dominion generally? Probably the builders would strike on a mine in what he calls a "sea of mountains"—that would more than pay for the building of the whole road. Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but we have the mineral wealth—gold and coal—in our Province, and all history shows that they go a long way towards national progress and stability. Two millions of Scotch people have done much for the greatness of England, by their iron, coal and other minerals, and their magnificent beds of limestone. British Columbia has been more to Canada than Ireland has been to England. Ireland is an agricultural country, and furnishes England with beef, butter, eggs and potatoes, which is what the North-