

the hon. gentleman's friends when they see them disposed to do such a thing as that. I can well understand why there is a distrust of the leaders and advisers of that party.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—Order, order. I call the hon. gentleman to order for criticizing the conduct of gentlemen in the House of Commons.

THE SPEAKER—I think the hon. gentleman from Niagara is in order in criticizing the conduct of any member or any party in the House of Commons, but he would not be in order in criticizing the conduct of the whole body of the House of Commons.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I have not mentioned the other House by name; neither have I mentioned the collective action of the other House. I have a perfect right to speak of matters which bear upon the general argument and which bear on any public work, or on the policy of a party. If it were not for that there could be very little latitude in debate. I do not intend to say anything further, but I trust that this Bill will receive the assent of a large majority of this House, which has always been faithful to the trust reposed in it, in assisting as far as possible the public credit and great public enterprises like this. The arrangement strikes me as being one which is perfectly business-like, one which is perfectly safe, one to which we may, with entire confidence, give our affirmative vote, and I fail to see that anything has been said either in this House, or in another place, that should for one moment affect the public confidence either in the construction or completion, or the future prospects of the great transcontinental road upon which depends the future of Canada, and as to which so much has been done to thwart it and injure its character by, I will not call it an unpatriotic opposition (because they act only as far as they know, but do not see beyond the point of the opposition of the present moment), yet in spite of all that opposition I predict that before we meet here another session we shall see that road in full operation. We shall see it fulfilling largely the expectations that have been formed of it, and have very little thanks to

offer to the hon. gentlemen who have so strenuously opposed and misrepresented it from the beginning.

HON. MR. POWER—I have given notice of an amendment which I propose to move at the third reading of this Bill, and before moving that amendment, I am sure the House will pardon me if I venture to make a few observations on the rather remarkable speech of the hon. gentleman who has just sat down. I have not made a practice of undertaking to criticise the speeches of other hon. gentlemen in this House or to question their taste or their policy; but I may say it is a somewhat remarkable thing that on the third reading of a Bill which was about being read almost without any opposition, a supporter of the measure should make such a speech as that which we have just listened to—a speech which would have been very proper on the second reading of the Bill, but is altogether out of place at this last stage of the measure. I hope the House will excuse me for departing a little from my usual practice. As I said, I have not been in the habit of remarking on the speeches of other members and their conduct, and I think the House will not deny that I have stood a good deal of very unpleasant language at various times from the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Hear, hear. You do not mean me?

HON. MR. POWER—I think it is proper to call attention to that fact. The hon. gentleman is in the habit, as every hon. member in this House knows, of making most offensive interruptions while other hon. gentlemen are speaking, and the hon. member is not willing to allow reciprocity, even in the smallest degree; because he will not allow any other hon. gentleman to ask him a simple question which may be germane to his remark, and may be intended for the purpose of eliciting information. I think the hon. gentleman departs from the usual course in both ways. First in offensively interrupting other speakers, and next in declining to answer fair and reasonable questions which are asked of himself when speaking. I have heretofore attributed it to the hon.

HON. MR. PLUMB.