

Provinces. There could be no difficulty in securing construction through the Prairie Region by private enterprise in view of the excellence of the land in this favored part of the Continent. We would leave with the Imperial Authorities, for the reasons given in previous Articles, the task of carrying the road from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Under this method of construction, our National Railway would be secured at the minimum cost to the country; and our people and public men be preserved from the misdeeds, corruption and scandal, lurking under the present system of manipulating the millions which will be spent in the carrying out of this colossal work.

We avow our desire to see this Imperial and National road built. We are prepared for construction through the Prairie Region on a proper location and sound financial basis. Furthermore, whilst opposing the immediate commencement of construction in British Columbia as premature, we will go a step further and declare our willingness to accept this task, after having received a final answer from the Imperial Authorities in the pending negotiations; coupling, however, with this declaration, the condition, that operations shall only be commenced when the finances of the country will permit without the necessity of increasing the rate of taxation, and at the same time meeting the just claims of the older Provinces on the Federal Treasury.

If we oppose the present policy, it is because this policy will defeat each and every one of the objects which the people of Canada had in view in undertaking the construction of this trans-continental railway.

With Parliament rests the responsibility of meeting the issue which has been raised; may Parliament be equal to the occasion. The consequences which will follow from the solution which must be adopted are truly alarming to contemplate.



*Shantz Library*