

May 31, 1872

Blanchet	Bodwell
Bowell	Bowman
Bown	Brown
Burpee	Cameron (Huron South)
Cameron (Inverness)	Campbell
Carling	Caron
Carter	Cartier (Sir George-É.)
Cartwright	Cayley
Chauveau	Cimon
Coffin	Colby
Costigan	Crawford (Brockville)
Crawford (Leeds South)	Daoust
De Cosmos	Delorme (Provencher)
Dobbie	Drew
Dugas	Ferguson
Ferris	Forbes
Fortin	Galt (Sir A.T.)
Gaucher	Gaudet
Gendron	Grant
Gray	Grover
Hagar	Hincks (Sir Francis)
Irvine	Jackson
Jones (Leeds North and Grenville North)	Keeler
Kempt	Lacerte
Langevin	Lapum
Lawson	Little
Macdonald (Sir John A.)	McDonald (Middlesex West)
Mackenzie	Magill
Masson (Soulanges)	Masson (Terrebonne)
McCallum	McConkey
McDougall (Lanark North)	McDougall (Trois-Rivières)
McGreevy	McKeagney
McMonies	Merritt
Metcalfe	Mills
Morris	Morison (Victoria North)
Munroe	Nathan
Nelson	Oliver
Perry	Pinsonneault
Pope	Pouliot
Pozer	Ray
Redford	Renaud
Robitaille	Ross (Champlain)
Ross (Dundas)	Ross (Wellington Centre)
Ryan (King's, N. B.)	Rymal
Scatcherd	Shanly
Simard	Smith (Selkirk)
Snider	Sproat
Stephenson	Stirton
Street	Thompson (Haldimand)
Thompson (Ontario North)	Tilley
Tremblay	Tupper
Wallace (Albert)	Wallace (Vancouver Island)
Walsh	Webb
Wells	White (Halton)
White (Hastings East)	Whitehead
Willson	Wood
Workman	Wright (York West)
Young—125	

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that the question of the terminus had now been practically determined, but he attached much more importance to the provisions of this bill which made it one of the most dangerous Acts ever passed by the Legislature. If there were one thing that they ought to be more careful and guarded about than another it was to maintain the functions which properly belonged to them as a legislature, to maintain the independence of the

Executive, and to prevent that tendency to encroachment upon their legislative powers which was ever present to a greater or less extent with the Executive. The leader of the Government had remarked that he was in favour of centralization; that was very clearly shown in this bill. No centralization was worse than centralization power in the Dominion Executive. The Minister of Militia (Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier), in introducing this bill, told them with a great deal of humour and pleasantry that “the Governor in Council was a great institution.” If bills like this were allowed to pass it would indeed become “a great institution,” an institution that would swallow up all the other institutions of the country, and would centralize all power in the hands of the Government.

He proposed to test the sense of the House upon this matter, and while it was evident that there was impatience of the debate tonight in the House, it was quite as evident that those holding the views he did were bound to place them on record because he believed that if they entrusted this extensive power to the Executive they would soon have other encroachments upon their authority that would practically make this Legislature the second instead of the first power in the country. He knew the excuse that would be urged by the Government was this: that, in absence of better information which would enable them to bring down a more definite scheme, it was essential that the Government should take the extensive powers asked by this bill in order to implement to the utmost extent the agreement with British Columbia.

But, as he took occasion to remark the other day, he did not believe that the construction of this road would be facilitated by undue hurry at the commencement. He believed, on the contrary, that all the evidence went to show that an unwise beginning was sure to lead to calamitous proceedings for many years. In his opinion, the proper course to take was to have a thorough instrumental survey of the road made. That would enable the Government to lay down by profile the extent of the works to be encountered in the construction of the road and enable the contractors to ascertain with something like exactitude the distance from the base of operations. He believed that with all this information to obtain, which would take a year or perhaps two, the construction of the road could be proceeded with much more rapidly than was possible under the present arrangement. It was said the Government by this plan saved the expense of a survey; but they would actually save nothing because if the Company had to pay the expense of the survey they would make an allowance for it in their tenders. The question then was whether it was wise under these circumstances to proceed in this hurried manner. He believed it was not, and in consequence of this hurried proceeding the Government felt themselves obliged to take powers which no Government in this country in his recollection ever before asked from Parliament.

If there was one thing to be astonished at more than another in the course of the life of this Parliament it was the wonderful facility with which they had permitted the Government to assume formidable powers like those asked for in this Bill. He was quite sure the sense of the country was against this. He was sure all the