

project will eventually be successful or not, it is of course impossible to say now. England has been negotiating for a commercial treaty with Spain for more than a year, and hitherto without much success; but I am glad to learn that, principally in consequence of the Canadian Commissioner going to Madrid and opening up the question of trade with Canada, the discussion between England and Spain has been reopened on the main question of trade between those two countries. The hon. gentleman, in alluding to the speech of my hon. friend who moved the Address, said he was very glad to learn that he had made a complete turn-about face, that he had taken up the principle of country first and party afterwards, as if the hon. gentleman had taken it up for the first time. Now we have always understood that that was the banner of the Liberal Conservative Party—by a party, with a party, and for the people; we have always understood that the principle of the gentlemen opposite was—by a party, with a party, and for a party. But it may be that the hon. gentleman thinks that his party and the people are synonymous. The late election proved that and more than proved that. We all remember the meeting of Englishmen that Canning described so humorously, when three tailors met in a back shop in the east part of London, and commenced an address with, "We, the people of Kingston—no, England."

MR. MACKENZIE: We, the people of Victoria.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The hon. gentleman said that his Government had been denounced in former days by some gentlemen in the then Opposition, for not going fast enough with the Pacific Railway, and that others had denounced him for going on too fast. Perhaps it may be found that the policy of the present Government and his policy have not been identical; but we must agree that, after the country had been committed so far as to finish two ends of a railway, we must finish the middle. And that is the extent to which this Speech has committed the present Government to the policy of the hon. gentleman opposite. I forget how many miles there are near Red River, and how many near Thunder Bay, but we all know that there are 185

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miles in the middle altogether untouched. Until that is finished, the two ends are not of the slightest value whatever. The money has been expended, and the interest is going on. One part of the road runs into a swamp, and the other part runs into a wilderness, and, until these two portions are connected, we shall not have any line between the lakes and our great North-West. By completing that portion of the road we shall have every requisite means of communication. I have no doubt that the hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Mackenzie) will assist, as he has promised to assist, the Government in every possible way, in completing that link, and in giving us a road through Canada to our great country of the North-West. The hon. gentleman says there is something very dubious and diplomatic in the phrase "satisfy the reasonable expectations of British Columbia." One thing is clear, the hon. gentleman did not satisfy the expectations of British Columbia, whether reasonable or unreasonable. We sought to meet their reasonable expectations when we were in power before. We did not then find them so very unreasonable. Now that we are back in power, I do not think that we shall find them more unreasonable than before. A portion of the people have shown their rationality by electing myself to represent them. It is charged by a very high authority in the Reform press that I was elected simply by means of certain pledges to build this Pacific Railway, to suit my constituents and British Columbia in general. Well, the extent of my communications with British Columbia was the despatch of three telegrams to three friends, saying—"I have been defeated in Kingston, and I wish you to elect me for a constituency in British Columbia." The answer came over the wires, "It shall be done," and it was done. The same hon. gentleman asked if we were serious in introducing a Bill with regard to the census two or three years before the year of enumeration. True, it was only in 1870 we introduced the Census Bill for 1871; but the shortness of the time for preparation, then, entailed a great deal more expense than necessary in connection with the census. There had