

had faith in the people of Canada to believe they would have sufficient political honour to carry out their promises to British Columbia, and they would know whether such was the case when they went to the polls. If the British Columbia Government had not sufficient faith left to believe that the Dominion Government would yet carry out the terms of Union, it would petition the Imperial Government to sever the connection between the Province and Canada, and it would return to the old flag, not to the United States. British Columbia flourished under the old flag; the Imperial navy frequented its harbours, surveyed its coasts, and took a lively interest in the development of the resources of the country; but since the Province had joined Confederation, they would have declined in prosperity, except for its rich natural resources. Their confidence in the pledge of the Dominion Government to build the railroad had declined; their emigrants had been leaving their shores because the public lands were locked up, and, under those circumstances it was natural that men, who, like himself, had spent the best part of their lives in the Province, should feel aggrieved at the injustice done it. He hoped the Government would see proper to commence the construction of the Pacific Railway at once, and not longer allow the steel rails sent to British Columbia to remain there unladen, and deteriorating. Let the Government commence at Bute Inlet and build eastward. He did not desire to influence the Government in regard to the selection of a route, but he wished the work to be entered upon, so that the people who came to their shores, being desirous to return to the old flag, might do it with a little more confidence than at present. They received many immigrants from Australia as well as the old country, and many of those men who had invested money in lands in the hope that the national enterprise would be carried out had lost their savings through the work not being carried out as agreed upon. That was a gross injustice, and if the case were placed in proper hands, he thought the Government might be sued for breach of contract for the loss sustained by those parties.

Mr. THOMPSON (Cariboo) said the discussion had taken a wider scope than he expected when he brought forward the motion for those returns. The hon. the Premier had informed the House that Mr. Hunter's report was not yet sufficiently prepared to be submitted. He (Mr. Thompson) hoped, however, that, as Mr. Hunter was in the city, the report would be brought down to the House with as little delay as possible; indeed, it would be satisfactory to the First Minister himself, to have that report when he announced the railway policy of the Government. As had been stated by the junior member for Victoria, if the Bute Inlet route should be adopted, there would be no difficulty in proceeding with the work between that point and Fort George, whether any further explorations were made of the Pine River Pass or not. He hoped the hon. the First Minister would furnish the House with the information as soon as possible.

Mr. DECOSMOS said he believed Mr. Hunter's report was written in Victoria, British Columbia, and came from Victoria to San Francisco by the same mail as he (Mr. DeCosmos) did. He had that information on the authority of one of the engineers.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he did not know who it was in the engineers department who gave the hon. gentleman the information. He could only tell the hon. gentleman that the report was not made yet; only an informal letter had been sent by Mr. Hunter, giving briefly the results.

Mr. DECOSMOS said he did not refer to the officers in the Department at Ottawa, but to the Pacific Railway office in Victoria.

Mr. MACKENZIE said the statement was not correct as to the report being forwarded. There was nothing yet to bring down except Mr. Hunter's first letter, which he hoped the hon. gentleman would not desire. The motion might, therefore, pass with the understanding that the papers would be brought down as soon as the report was prepared.

*Motion agreed to.*