

The bondholders, for their own sake, to realize their own money by the sale of the remaining lands will, with the nine millions which are reserved by the charter, afford ample security for the completion and running of the road. The hon. gentleman's plan would have diminished the borrowing powers of the company to the extent of 25 per cent., thus abstracted from the security of the bonds. Then he goes on to say he would abrogate the charter, and have the road built by the Government, notwithstanding the resolution of the other branch of the Legislature of 1871 and the Act of Parliament of 1872 just the other way. He says we were all wrong the last two sessions, including himself. He did not get the contract—therefore let it be swept away, and the Government build the road. I don't believe either that the country desires or that Parliament will sanction this proposal. He asks us to do, moreover, what we can't do. This House should not be asked to arrive at any conclusion it can't carry out. This course would be contrary to its dignity and usefulness. Instead of asking this House to resolve the railway should be built by Government, he should have brought in a bill to repeal the regulations of last year. So long as there is an Act of the Legislature, enacting this road shall not be built by the Government, these resolutions can't pass. He speaks of his disposition to keep faith with private parties, and satisfy their rights, shall his motion succeed—a motion absurd and contrary to common sense, Would the adoption of these resolutions be dealing in good faith with the gentlemen negotiating the securities at present? A large sum of money may now be about to be invested in this road, or arrangements made be in progress for that object. The abrogation asked would be contrary to good faith with all parties, including Manitoba and British Columbia, which stipulated the road should be begun and completed with the least possible delay. This is not merely a charter but a charter-contract—a charter, to have the effect of a contract.

We should have heard not a word of all this dissatisfaction, or about the abrogation of the contract if we had been fortunate enough to have secured the assistance of the hon. gentleman. I acknowledge fully and freely our responsibility in this whole matter. We acted for the best throughout. We endeavoured to combine the two companies, so as to secure the assistance of the best men in the country. We should have been glad of the hon. gentleman's help, but did not

deem it advisable to deal with one company in preference to the other. One had more or less the character of an Ontario, and the other, of a Quebec Company. We desired men of character, means and talent from all the provinces, believing that the wisest policy for the country. I asked my hon. friend, last evening, if he was content to put the resolutions as a whole, to which he objected. I therefore propose to take a course which, I think, will enable the House to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as a whole. I think every member will agree that these resolutions ought to have been put as a whole, and ought so to be voted upon. Why resolve about one or two clauses, such as the first and second, respecting a certain Act of Parliament, having existence if they are to lead to no conclusion? These resolutions are a series of steps pointing to the various stages the hon. gentleman's mind was in till he arrived at the conclusion, embraced in the three last paragraphs—that the charter should be abrogated, and the work done by the Government, and therefore, to give hon. gentlemen an opportunity of passing upon these resolutions as a whole, I will move in amendment, seconded by the hon. Mr. Aikins:

To *Resolve*, That under the powers conferred by the Parliament at its last session the Governor in Council having granted a charter contract to a company to construct the Pacific Railway, which charter contract is in full force, it is inexpedient with a view to the early commencement of the railway, and the keeping of faith with British Columbia as regards the terms upon which that province united itself with the Dominion, to consider any of the resolutions now on the table of the House,—and that the House therefore proceed to the Order of the Day, next after the said resolutions.

(The hon. Postmaster General, having spoken for nearly two hours, sat down amid cheers.)

Amid cries of question, and after the Speaker had asked shall the amendment be put?

Hon. Mr. CARRALL said he would like to say a few words before the question was disposed of finally.

The SPEAKER replied the amendment was about to be put, but that need not prevent the hon. gentleman speaking on the main motion. He should then have an opportunity.

The division was then taken with the following result.

Contents—Hon. Messrs. Aikins, Archibald, Armand, Benson, Botsford, Burn