

agency of civilization in the last century. It has done more to bind nations and nations together than any other human agency. It has removed old prejudices by enabling peoples and nations to know more of each other, and it has made union possible where but for its aid ignorance would have continued to sow its seeds of discord and strife.

UNITING THE COUNTRY.

The Canadian confederation would have been a union on paper and a union on paper only, but for the fact that the Grand Trunk Railway, and the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Intercolonial Railway brought all parts of our country together to act in union and to beat with the same heart. This new railway will be another link in that chain of union. It will not only open territory hitherto idle and unprofitable; it will not only force Canada's trade into Canadian channels; it will not only promote citizenship between old Canada and new Canada but it will secure us our commer-

cial independence, and it will for ever make us free from the bondage of the bonding privilege. For that reason alone, in my estimation, it would be worth all the sacrifices and far more than we are called upon to make.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. Sir, it is therefore with a firm heart that I offer this scheme to friend and foe; it is with a firm heart that I present it to the Canadian people.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am well aware that it shall not be received everywhere with the same feelings. I am well aware that it may scare the timid and frighten the irresolute; but, Sir, I claim that every one who has in his bosom a stout Canadian heart will welcome it as a scheme worthy of this young nation for whom a heavy task has no terrors which has the strength to face grave duties and grave responsibilities.