

power, their chances are very blue for ever getting into power again. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me ask: Why am I discussing these matters?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I will tell my hon. friend in a moment. My hon. friend (Mr. Davies) is smiling, but it is a smile of the lips and he will know it before I get through. Why do I discuss these matters? I discuss them because my hon. friend from Queen's (Mr. Davies) last night said: When we get into power, we will do just the same as we did when we were in power before. My hon. friend will know that there is very little chance of my making any comparison with the future record of the Liberal party. That is away in the dim and distant future, and the House will therefore pardon me if I say something this afternoon as to their past record, more particularly as we have the certificate of my hon. friend from Queen's (Mr. Davies), that when he gets into power: "He will do the same as they did before." I want to say, Sir, in the first place: that standing here to-day, twenty-seven years from confederation, the records of this country show that hon. gentlemen opposite as a party have been wrong on every great public question upon which they ever declared a policy. In all the history of our years as a Dominion, these men have never propounded a policy that subsequent events had shown to be a proper one. Why, Sir, let me in the light of the present, read the announcement of their great leader in 1871, as to a great public enterprise in this country. Mr. Mackenzie on page 672 of the "Hansard" of 1871, says as follows, as regards the Canadian Pacific Railway:—

Mr. LAURIER. What are you quoting from?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The "Hansard" of 1871.

Mr. LAURIER. There was no "Hansard" in 1871.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is a "Hansard" in the Library made from "Globe" reports of the debates of that year.

Mr. LISTER. There was no "Hansard" then.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend is taking refuge behind a very slim willow. I want my hon. friends from the west to listen to what Mr. Mackenzie said then, and I want hon. gentlemen opposite to take a mental note of it, too, and to say what they think of their policy. Mr. Mackenzie said:

He would recommend a cheap narrow-gauge railway, with steamers on the lakes, instead of a costly broad-gauge road, for the North-west and British Columbia, and the railway across the prairies need not be constructed for many years.

Sir, that was the policy of the Liberal party. Looking back now, was it right or wrong? Looking back now, is there a man who will say it is right?

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes. It was right.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend from Wellington (Mr. McMullen) says that it is right. Well, he has always been a narrow-gauge politician, but no Canadian having an atom of regard for public opinion of his judgment will say as he says. I am old enough to remember, and old enough parliamentarian to know, that hon. gentlemen opposite opposed the construction of the great Sault Canal which gives us a water way independent of the people of the United States. My hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, last year could not refrain from expressing his pride at the construction of that great work, and thus admitted that he was wrong with regard to it when he opposed it. Why, Sir, let me just read a few extracts, because they are matters of history and the people of this country ought to know them, as to what these gentlemen opposite thought of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Here is what my friend the member for Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies) says:

This was a contract from which there was no escape politically or commercially, excepting one, and that is annexation to the United States. It is escape that no politician likes to talk about, but it will come one day, and, when it comes, we must take our chance and make the best bargain we can.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Where is the hon. gentleman reading from?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am reading from a report of a speech delivered in Charlotte-town in the year 1880.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Where is the report?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I will show the report to my hon. friend. Does he deny the utterance?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) From what paper?

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend has a custom of denying statements in this House—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I will show to-day that my hon. friend denies them sometimes—

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman knows, if he will allow me—

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Speaker, some days ago I asked a question of hon. gentlemen opposite, and you ruled, very strongly indeed, and very peremptorily I thought, that

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