

millions. The very fact of the policy of the Government being to develop the railway system gave an impetus to railway enterprises and attracted the attention of capitalists abroad. They began to see that this western peninsula, after all, afforded the shortest link between the great West and the Atlantic coast. Honourable gentlemen might carry this table a step further and say that a pretty large portion of the expenditure was attributable to the change which took place constitutionally in 1867, and which left us in a position to deal with all local enterprises as this Legislature might think proper. This was exemplified very markedly in the first session of the first Parliament of this Provincial Legislature. He had had occasion to attend before the Railway Committee as counsel in connection with several schemes, and he found the feeling of even the more intelligent of the members who composed that Committee was largely influenced—he did not mean to say otherwise than honestly—by existing railways, and that that influence was being successfully used to stifle all new enterprises, and that it nearly succeeded in stifling the new railway enterprises, some of which were only able to receive mutilated charters by one vote in this Chamber. He believed that before the 1st of July, 1867, this feeling would have been successful in Quebec or Ottawa, and that it would have been impossible for a large number of these important enterprises to have taken the first step in the face of the predominating influence which existing railways possessed in connection with the old Province of Canada. In calling the attention of hon. gentlemen to these expenditures which we were making in all directions, and in regard to the accumulation of our resources and the consequent strengthening of this portion of the Dominion, he thought he might congratulate the House and the country upon the statement he had been able to introduce on this occasion; and he thought that statement was the best answer to those extremely malicious and ignorant articles which had appeared in leading journals in the British metropolis. He did not know whether hon. members had read, as he had done, an article which appeared in the *Times* newspaper a few weeks since, and which assumed to belittle the position of Canada and Canadians, and which ascribed to them, in consequence of their political connection with the mother country, a position of anything but self reliance, which spoke of their want of intelligence and their dependent condition. Now, he would ask hon. gentlemen or any one who understood the true position of the Province, who knew the large amount which it contributes for the purpose of making education free to every child in the land, whether we were a people that would become more intelligent by any change in our political position. When the public generally understood that we had added so much to our welfare, to our actual cash accumulations in the past seven years, when we had nearly doubled our resources in that respect, and when we were adding to the mileage of the railways constructed in the Province nearly fifteen hundred miles, when we have expended nearly twenty millions in connection with their construction, and when this Province was able to go further and relieve a large portion of it which was suffering under a load of debt contracted under circumstances which were quite exceptional, and when it still possesses a very large sum of money indeed, and when it goes further and expends the very large sums he had mentioned in the establishment of every kind of institution which an intelligent and civilized people ought to possess. Could any paper conversant with the facts, could any man accustomed to lead the public mind, venture to say that this was not a self-reliant community? He went further, and said that the advice which was conveyed in this article in respect to our taking up our freedom was ignorantly given by a writer who knew nothing of our true position. He said further that if there was a country in the world which had long ceased to be in a position of apprenticeship it was the Dominion of Canada. Did not we each and all of us protect ourselves, and were we not ready to go further and make that protection an actual one? Was there amongst the millions upon whom we could now rely in connection with our defence a man who would not be prepared to die—the last man in the last ditch—for the defence of his country? He went still further, and said that in regard to our freedom it could not possibly be said that in consequence of any possible change in our political position this Province could be any more free than it is now. Was there not an intelligent public opinion? That public opinion had been stifled by influences which he was glad to say were fast disappearing—

influences which had placed the government of this country, and until a short time ago the government of this Province, in the hands of men unworthy to control it—men who knew nothing of the aspirations of the Canadian people, and who were unable properly to control its destinies. He would say that there was a public opinion in this country, which, so far as this Province was concerned, had been exercised in such a way as to thoroughly show that we belonged to the "true North," of which the Poet Laureate sang, which was faithful in its position as a dependency of the British Empire, and that we assert ourselves as free men in full possession of our freedom.

Mr. CAMERON congratulated the Treasurer upon the very lucid and eloquent manner in which he had placed before the House his Budget for the first time. He agreed with him in the eloquent observations he had made in reference to the intelligence and energy of the people of this country. He condemned the conduct of the leading English journal, and maintained that the greatness of England rested on the allegiance of her dependencies. He next alluded to the manner in which the hon. Treasurer had applauded the hon. member for South Brant, and inferred that he had received assistance from that gentleman in the preparation of his budget.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said if his hon. friend would allow him he would make an explanation. He had not had the slightest communication on the subject with the hon. member for South Brant, nor had he received from him a single tittle of information respecting the Budget. The only information that gentleman afforded him was that which he found amongst the records in the office, in the public accounts, and in his speeches.

Mr. CAMERON asked, if he disclaimed having received any immediate information from the member for South Brant on the budget, would he also disclaim having received any information in the preparation of the Loan Fund speech?

Hon. Mr. CROOKS thought that after he had emphatically denied having had any communication with the hon. member for South Brant his denial should be accepted. He had had no communication with that gentleman; and he wished to know if the hon. gentleman wanted to infer that there was still something behind what he had stated.

Mr. CAMERON thought that there was no necessity for the hon. Treasurer getting excited. He merely wished to know if the hon. member for South Brant had not been employed in the preparation of the scheme for the disposition of the Municipal Loan Fund.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL said this was a question for him to answer. The hon. member for South Brant had not been employed in any such manner, and no part of that scheme had been suggested by the hon. gentleman in question. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMERON accepted the hon. gentleman's explanation, and regretted that he had made the charge that the honourable member for South Brant had assisted the Government either in the preparation of the Municipal Loan Fund scheme or the Budget. But in paying a compliment to the member for South Brant, he took it that the Treasurer was also paying a compliment to the Sandfield Macdonald Ministry, and it was a pity therefore, that the services of that Ministry were stayed by the course adopted by honourable gentleman opposite. The speaker went on to refer to the nineteen millions of dollars added to the solid value of the country in the construction of railways, and said that it was during the administration of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald that these works were commenced. It was probably in consequence of the discussion which took place in this House that those railways were successful. He himself had opposed the construction of the Canada Southern, for at the time the Bill was before the House the scheme had been several years in existence, and he supposed it was standing in the way of progress, and would prevent the construction of the Air Line Railway. The result of that opposition was that the enterprise was brought into notice with the capitalists of the United States. There was also opposition offered to the narrow-gauge railways, but that very opposition gave vitality to the schemes, and portions of the country that were likely to have no railways would have abundance of them shortly. The Government had pursued the plan of giving support to several banking institutions, and had sought in that way to purchase assistance. One of the banks in this city, however, not inferior in standing to any and superior to some, was deprived of any assistance from the Government because it was said the heads of it were supporters