

some navigable spot on the Fraser to Lake Kamloops. I claim for this that it might be regarded as a part of the transcontinental line, and in my opinion it would do more to build up the country than anything else that could be conceived, and I believe it to be thoroughly practicable. I, therefore, move a recommendation to His Excellency that the construction of a Railway from steamboat navigation on the Fraser River to Kamloops Lake be inserted in the terms, instead of commencing from the initial sections on the seaboard of British Columbia.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—Sir, I approach the consideration of this clause with a great sense of the magnitude of the work which we propose to the Government of that Dominion with which we propose to be confederated. My mind seems somewhat to shrink before the contemplation of its magnitude; and it is only when the reflection is gradually forced upon me, that the union can never be a reality until the Railway is commenced in our own territory, and that it is necessary, that I can bring myself to believe that it should be done. That it is practicable is undeniable, and needs no argument. From all information I have been able to obtain, and comparing it with the difficulties which have been overcome on the Pacific line, I believe the proportion of cost of the proposed line of Railway from the seaboard of British Columbia to Canada to be not more than two-thirds of the cost of the line already built from California across the Sierra Nevada. There will, of course, be difficulties to overcome, which may influence the choice of the best line of route. I believe we are justified in asking for the construction of the Railway, and I am satisfied, I may say I know, that there is a great desire on the part of those now in power in Canada to construct this Railroad, and if it be in their power to do it it will be done. To go to the terms: objections have been made to the time of commencement. I would ask the House to consider what an amount of prospecting and survey will have to be done before any commencement can possibly be made in the work. I do not think that there is any delay suggested by fixing the time of three years. I think it is the shortest time that could be named. The proper line could hardly be determined sooner. We do not presume to suggest the scheme, or the means. My opinion is that the Railway will be built by private enterprise, under a guarantee. As the Imperial Government have shown a desire to encourage Confederation, I think we have a right to expect that they will render some assistance in the building of the Railway, especially after Lord Granville's despatch. [Hear, hear.] I hope that the Canadian Government will have the assistance of the Imperial Government in carrying out this scheme. It will be some time before the scheme can be developed, and then at least two seasons must elapse, as an immense amount of reconnoitring and surveying will be necessary. Three years is not too much. The Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DeCosmos) objects to the framing of this Resolution as too catching. I think his objection is unfounded. I believe that the benefits will be real and substantial. The reason that so small a sum as \$1,000,000 is asked for is that it is only intended to be an earnest, so to speak, on the part of the Dominion Government that the Railway will be made. I believe that the expenditure of \$1,000,000 upon the first twenty miles will bring an accession of from 5,000 to 10,000 to our population. We have a right to ask that the Railway should be commenced here. It is desirable that it should be made here. It will be found that when once it is commenced here a nucleus of population will be formed which will add considerably to the prosperity of the Colony. It has been argued that no profit can arise from the expenditure of the vast amount of capital that will be required to build this Railway. It will cost probably \$20,000,000, and therefore is not likely to be profitable for years to come. We cannot, in my opinion, expect any pecuniary return for years. It behoves the Dominion Government, if they desire the prosperity of this part of the Empire, to develop the resources of the estate which we are handing over. If they value it as we do, and as we believe that they do, they will endeavour to realize the advantages at the earliest possible date. This Railway will do so, when it is completed across the Rocky Mountains, and in my opinion not till then shall we have a population. Before concluding, I desire to say that it is intended, although it is not so stated in the terms, to give an assurance to the Dominion Government that any amount of land which they think reasonable will be given. This will be made a part of the scheme for the construction of the Railway, if thought desirable.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—Sir, I look upon this clause as most important. I am one of those who believe that there can be no real Confederation without a Railroad. Government has made a mistake in naming the sum of \$1,000,000 to be expended on the seaboard. There