

It was a resolution declaring that in the opinion of parliament the tax exemption of the Canadian Pacific Railway should extend only to a period of 20 years. The hon. member for West Assiniboia said:

If I thought this resolution would do the slightest good, I would vote for it.

Mr. MACLEAN. It will not do any harm if you vote for it.

Mr. SCOTT. It might not directly, but indirectly it would be an encouragement to hon. gentlemen to come forward with demagogic and buncombe resolutions, and I do not propose to encourage anything of the kind. I do not think there will be any practical value in the House declaring for this resolution and shall, therefore, vote against it.

I would say to my hon. friend that I do not see any good whatever in either of the resolutions which he has moved to-day. I refer him to his word which I have quoted. If I was a little warm in any of my expressions this afternoon I trust he will understand that I did not intend to be offensive to him in any way. I do not think either of his resolutions has the merit of being practical. As far as this one is concerned I shall vote against it with the same goodwill as I voted against the one he moved this afternoon.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, the opposition intended to assist the government in every way they could in passing these two Bills before the early hours of the morning. But the hon. member for West Assiniboia occupied an hour and twenty minutes this afternoon and 40 minutes more to-night with speeches and with resolutions similar to one moved by my hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) a few years ago on this very same question which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) then characterized as a buncombe resolution. But I only intend to deal with one of the many reckless statements that he made this afternoon. He made the statement that the Liberal party had always been in favour of building the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Northwest. Does he know the history of the Liberal party in regard to the building of that railway that created that country and made something of it? A contract was made by the Conservative government previous to 1873 to build that railway, but by the opposition then offered in the House, the government of the late lamented Sir John A. Macdonald were driven from power on account of having entered into that contract. The Liberals came into office. Did they make a contract to build that railway or did they attempt to build that railway? They attempted to use the water stretches and to connect Port Arthur with Winnipeg by a part water and part rail route. They built the Fort Francis lock, squandered a lot of money, but did not do anything towards the building of the railway. Then the Conservative party came in again; they entered into negotiations, and in 1881 this contract was made. The Canadian Pacific

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

Railway, under the contract, spent millions and millions of money in attempting to construct the railway in that country. When they had spent the last dollar they had and when they had exhausted the last dollar of credit they could obtain owing to the opposition of the Liberal party and of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, they came down to this parliament and asked for a loan of \$30,000,000 to save them from going into bankruptcy. If they had gone into bankruptcy, what would be the position of the Northwest Territories to-day? The government of that day said: We will assist you, we will grant you a loan of \$30,000,000 and take ample security. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia to-day quoted the words of Mr. Blake, Mr. Ross and Sir Richard Cartwright. What did these gentlemen say? They said that if this railway were ever built it would not earn enough to pay for the axle grease, and every Liberal in the House at that time—and there are a few of them left, as there are only a few on this side of the House who supported that measure—opposed the granting of this assistance. The supporters of the government of that day stood up and voted in favour of loaning the Canadian Pacific Railway \$30,000,000, because, notwithstanding the fact that under the contract they had the lands and they had the exemption from taxation that my hon. friend is now complaining about, they could not raise a dollar to go on and complete the road. Yet, the hon. gentleman makes the reckless statement that the Liberal party were always in favour of building this road. A few Conservatives who are here now were in the House then and they stood up and voted to loan the Canadian Pacific Railway \$30,000,000. The measure was carried notwithstanding the opposition of every Liberal in the House at that time, and there are only a few of them left. We loaned them \$30,000,000; the road was completed; the company paid back the \$30,000,000, and yet the hon. member for West Assiniboia will say that the Liberal party were always in favour of building the road.

Mr. COCHRANE. Did he say that?

Mr. TAYLOR. He did say it this afternoon. He had the assumption to make a statement of that kind. There are many of us in the House to-day who know that the Hon. G. W. Ross, when the hon. gentleman quoted against the Canadian Pacific Railway, was man enough to get up and say in recent years that he had opposed the Canadian Pacific Railway at every stage, but he regretted he had ever done so, and he withdrew every statement he ever made against it. It is not so with the other Liberals who opposed the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and who now try to get credit for building it and making that western country what it is. Why, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) would have no country were it not for the policy