

HON. MR. BROWN--No! no! My hon. friend must surely see how wrong it is to make such a statement. It is quite uncertain what amount will be thrown upon the Federal Government for the construction of that road; but, if it is built in the way which has been suggested by the Lower Provinces, it will cost no such sum, nor anything like the sum, mentioned by the hon. member for West Middlesex. Of course, no one can at present tell in what way the Federal Government may decide that it shall be done; but if it is done in the way of a bonus to be paid on the completion of the road, and on security being given that the road shall be kept open for a certain term of years, it will cost nothing like the sum mentioned by my hon. friend.

HON. MR. HOLTON--We have no such proposition before us.

HON. MR. BROWN--But I believe the Lower Provinces have such a proposition before them for a large section of the road—a proposition for a bonus of \$10,000 per mile, which would complete the whole road for a sum infinitely less than my hon. friend has mentioned. Therefore, my hon. friend leads the House quite astray when he dogmatically puts down the cost of the Intercolonial Railway at \$20,000,000.

HON. MR. HOLTON--Hon. Mr. TILLEY says it will cost \$12,000,000.

HON. MR. BROWN--Perhaps Hon. Mr. TILLEY thinks that it may cost that sum, but there are other hon. gentlemen who are quite as well able to judge of the matter as my hon. friend, Mr. TILLEY, who place it at \$8,000,000; and the money that will be necessary for the purpose will be borrowed under the Imperial guarantee, at a rate, I presume, not exceeding $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MR. SCATCHERD—I would ask my hon. friend the President of the Council if he has not stated that the Intercolonial Railway would cost \$16,000,000 or \$18,000,000? (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. BROWN--It is quite probable; my impression at one time was that it would cost \$15,000,000; but then this was always based on the idea of its being built by the Government, and it was one of my strongest objections to the scheme that the honorable gentlemen who now constitute the Opposition intended to build it at the public cost, and run it at the public cost.

HON. MR. HOLTON--Hon. gentlemen who now form the Opposition?

HON. MR. BROWN--I am not speaking

of the hon. member for Chateauguay, but of his leaders.

HON. MR. HOLTON--Will the honorable gentleman please refer to those he means more specifically?

HON. MR. BROWN--The hon. gentleman who sits at his side is one of them.

HON. MR. HOLTON--Surely the hon. gentleman does not refer to my hon. friend the member for Hochelaga (Hon. Mr. DORION)?

HON. MR. BROWN--The hon. member for Bagot (Hon. Mr. LAFRAMBOISE).

HON. MR. HOLTON--No; the hon. member for Bagot only joined the Government in 1863.

HON. MR. BROWN--The hon. member for Cornwall (Hon. J. S. MACDONALD), is at any rate fully responsible.

HON. MR. DORION--The government of my honorable friend (Hon. J. S. MACDONALD) had a proposition before it somewhat similar to this, and which was to build a railway; but it was not said by what means. You, however, have bound yourself to build a railway, and if you do not find a company to construct it, you will have to build it and keep it open at your own cost.

HON. MR. BROWN--Not exactly; and there is already a proposal to build a large portion of the line.

MR. SCATCHERD--I think the course which the debate has taken shows the absolute necessity that the Government should have brought down a statement of the expense of this road, so that members might have been able to form some opinion in regard to its cost. They might have called upon the engineer who surveyed the route to make some approximation of the probable outlay. When, in the absence of such information, I rise in my place and say that according to the best data at my command, it will cost \$20,000,000, I am met by the Hon. President of the Council protesting against my making such a statement. But when I ask my honorable friend if he has not stated that it will cost \$16,000,000 or \$18,000,000, he replies that he might have said it would cost \$15,000,000. So that, according to my hon. friend himself, it is safe to assume that for the Intercolonial Railway, the debt will be increased by \$15,000,000. This, then, is one of the new debts the new Government will be called upon immediately to contract. Then another debt will be required for the defences of the country. I put this sum down at \$6,000,000.