

mitting themselves to him, in the belief that when he made any proposition, no matter of what character, he had some good object in view.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—No, no.

MR. M. C. CAMERON—When the motion for the previous question was sprung upon the House, the Hon. Attorney General West rather rated the honorable member for Carleton, because that honorable gentleman chose to express an independent view on the matter, and then he stated that the follower ought always to obey the leader, because it was to be supposed the latter would not take any particular action without having good reasons for it. (Hear, hear.) Now, it seems to me that we have not been sent to this House by the people to follow the leaders of a party, but to represent the constituencies according to the best judgment we possess; and we are not, I think, required to give up that right of judgment upon all questions that come before this House, to the leader of a party or anybody else, but to exercise it properly ourselves. (Hear, hear.) The leader of the Government, in introducing any measure, ought to be able to satisfy honorable members of this House of the goodness and wisdom of that measure, and he should not ask or receive support any further than his ability to give such satisfaction. (Hear, hear.) The doctrine laid down by the Hon. Attorney General is, therefore, in my opinion—because it takes away the right of private judgment of honorable members of this House—pernicious and injurious to the best interests of the country.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—In what respect?

MR. M. C. CAMERON—In inducing honorable members of this House to act in any matter contrary to their own judgment, because the leader of the party to which they belong tells them to do so.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—No, no. I did not say that.

MR. M. C. CAMERON—I understood the honorable gentleman so, when the honorable member for Carleton and himself had that pleasant altercation the other day; and if that was not his meaning, I am sorry that I imputed it to him. (Hear, hear.) Now, I have contended that this measure of Confederation ought to be submitted to the people before its adoption. I have already

given from the *Globe* newspaper reasons why it should. I do not, sir, bring forward these extracts from that paper for the mere purpose of placing the Hon. President of the Council in an awkward and unpleasant position; but my design in doing so is to lead honorable gentlemen to reflect and think upon the probable effect of the votes they may give. If the *Globe* newspaper advocated measures formerly which met with the approbation of the people, and if its influence was so wide spread as is asserted, and as it undeniably is, the leaven with which it leavened the country by those articles advocating certain doctrines remains there still, and has not been removed by any new arguments it may now advance. It would be well for honorable gentlemen, therefore, to reflect well before making up their minds that the old leaven of the *Globe* has gone abroad—has still a hold of the public mind—and may affect them very seriously when they next present themselves at the polls. Now, I will read another extract showing what was the opinion held by the *Globe* on a subject which is viewed quite differently now by the Hon. President of the Council and the Government:—

We have a debt of seventy millions, and a deficiency of three or four millions, created by undertaking works which have failed to pay any return for the cost of construction. But no enterprise, the burden of which we have assumed, comes anything near the Intercolonial in the poverty of its promised results. It will not secure the profitable settlement of an acre of land; it will not help our trade; it will not pay its own running expenses.

The few barren acres at the east are to get \$50,000 a year of our money, while half a continent to the west is to get a few words addressed to the Colonial Minister.

Now, here is the doctrine, in reference to this matter, held by the *Globe* and the Hon. President of the Council only two years ago; and if these views were correct then they ought to be correct now, and the people should have an opportunity of pronouncing upon them, and saying whether that railway should be built, especially when, under this Confederation scheme, we are to pay upwards of three millions annually for the maintenance of the local governments. If the railway was objectionable then, surely it is more objectionable now, when the annual expenditure in connection with it will be at least double what it would have been had it