

But, Sir, we desire to have the trade kept on our own side — that not one of the trains that passes over the Canadian Pacific Railway will run into the United States if we can help it, but may, instead, pass through our own country, that we may build up Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Halifax and Saint John by means of one great Canadian line, carrying as much traffic as possible by the course of trade through our own country. . .

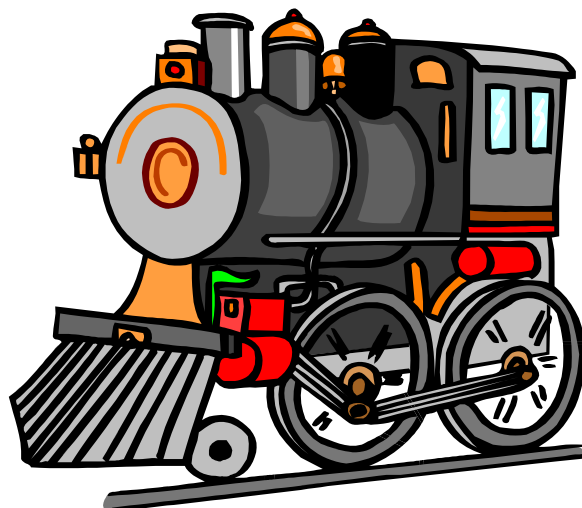
- Sir John A. Macdonald, Speech before the House of Commons, January 17, 1881.
National Library of Canada, Prime Ministers, Speeches:
<<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/primeministers/h4-4000-e.html#cnr>>

Late events have shown us that we are made one people by that road, that that iron link has bound us together in such a way that we stand superior to most of the shafts of ill-fortune.

- Sir John A. Macdonald, Speech in June 1885, referring to the Canadian Pacific Railway, quoted by Pierre Berton in *The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881 - 1885* (1971).

The Government of the Dominion undertake to secure the commencement simultaneously, within two years from the date of the Union, of the construction of a Railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected, east of the Rocky Mountains, towards the Pacific, to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the railway system of Canada; and further, to secure the completion of such Railway within ten years from the date of the Union.

- *Canada, Terms of Union*: Terms and conditions under which the Colony of British Columbia entered into union with the Dominion of Canada, at the Court at Windsor, item 11; May 16, 1871.



British Columbia was part British and part American; it would require the completion of the railway to make her part of the new dominion.

- Pierre Berton, *The Last Spike*, 1971, page 217.

All aboard for the West!

- George-Étienne Cartier, on the passing of the Pacific Railway Act, House of Commons, Debates, June 1872.

Of all the conditions usually attached to a union of this colony with Canada, that of early establishment of railroad communication from sea to sea is the most important. If the railroad scheme is utopian, so is Confederation. The two must stand or fall together.

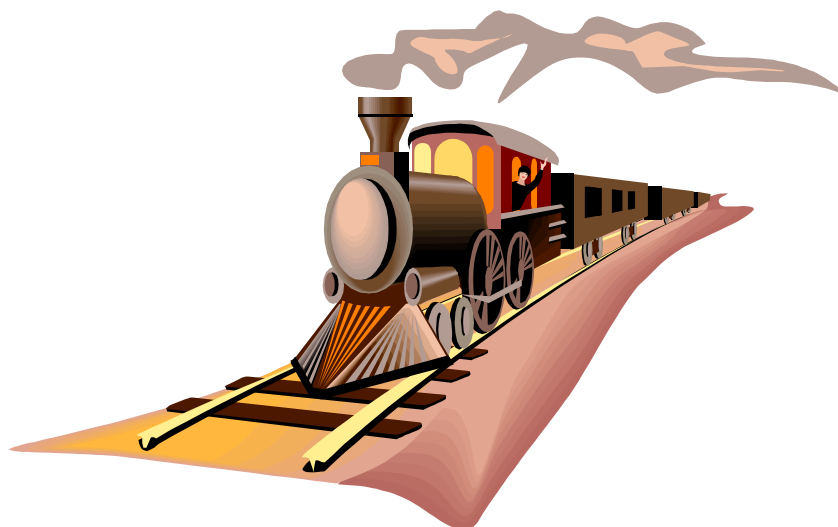
- New Westminster, *British Columbian*, February 2, 1870.

Four nations welded into one, with long, historic past, / Have found, in these our western wilds, one common life at last. / Through the young giant's mighty limbs that stretch from sea to sea. / There runs a throb of conscious life, of waking energy / From Nova Scotia's misty coast, to far Pacific shore, / She wakes, a band of scattered homes and colonies no more, / But a young nation, with her life full beating in her breast, / A noble future in her eyes, the Britain of the West.

- Agnes M. Machar, "Dominion Day, 1879," in *Canadian Monthly*, III, 9.

I found the Island in a high state of jubilation [on joining Confederation] and quite under the impression that it is the Dominion that has been annexed to Prince Edward.

- Lord Dufferin, in a letter to Sir John A. Macdonald, in 1873.



Then hurrah for our own native isle, Newfoundland! / Not a stranger shall hold one inch of its strand! / Her face turns to Britain, her back to the Gulf. / Come near at your peril, Canadian Wolf!

— Anti-Confederation Song by Horace Greeley.

When the experiment of the "dominion" shall have failed—as fail it must—a process of peaceful absorption will give Canada her proper place in the great North American Republic [the United States of America].

— quoted in P. B. Waite, "Life and Times of Confederation," 1962, 29, from *New York Tribune*, May 10, 1867.

...the price of building the transcontinental railroad had been high: it cost the Canadian government 10.4 million hectares of the best Prairie land; an estimated \$63.5 million in public funds and government loans of \$35 million; not to mention the displacement of Canada's First Nations and the lost lives of many immigrant labourers.

— The Canadian West, *Donald Smith Drives the Last Spike*:
<http://www.archives.ca/05/0529/052920/05292086_e.html>

