

to have it done, long before it was. There was a time preceding the war—for this great work has been in contemplation for a good many years—that we fought this thing persistently, but without success; we could not get it through Congress. We sent out surveyors to prospect and estimate the cost of the different roads through the Rocky Mountains and on to the Pacific coast, and they reported that it would cost a hundred millions of dollars to establish this road there, and men thought this sum so great that no nation could afford to engage in the enterprise. You all know the arguments used in Congress against it. It was extravagant, it was enormous, it would bankrupt the nation to undertake it, yet a private company of individuals, aided a little by the Government, have gone on and rendered it not only possible, but have, in a great measure, accomplished the work. [Applause.]

As the gentleman who preceded me stated, we traversed the road seven hundred miles west of this place, into the very heart and centre of the continent, and there we found them going on almost as fast as man could walk. Indeed I did not know at one time if we should be able to get to the end of it, for I will say that they are prosecuting it with an unabated energy, and with a unity of purpose that is perfectly amazing. Every workman knows his place—every one is as busy as he can be—the work goes perceptibly on while you stand there viewing it; and, sir, this is most honorable to those gentlemen who have this great work in charge. I tell you that five years will not elapse before you may take the cars here and go to San Francisco in four days. [Applause.]

And then think of the developments of that great country which will be disclosed. How is it now, sir, in your Rocky Mountain region, a region so remote and so little known, that ten years ago, I recollect, in Congress, when we undertook to divide it up into Territories, we were puzzled most of all to fix the boundaries, because we did not know where they would run, and, if you look in our work you will find that we have bounded them on the west “by the crest of the Rocky Mountains, wherever that might be.” We knew not if there was any gold or other minerals