

To the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Memorial of the undersigned Merchants, Bankers, and others of the Borough and vicinity of Belfast,

Showeth,

THAT for six months of the year we are dependent on the United States of America for our communication with Canada.

That in case of an interruption of our friendly relations with the United States, our intercommunication with Canada, during that period, is liable to be cut off at a moment's notice, and an important portion of the British Empire placed in great jeopardy.

That the completion of a line of Railway from Halifax to Quebec would render us perfectly independent of the United States; at present our trade and correspondence with our own Province of Canada, and the local trade and correspondence between the lower British Provinces and foreign countries is for half the year subject to the will and fiscal enactments of the United States.

That by the completion of the proposed line, direct railway communication will be established through British territory from Halifax to Lake Huron, a distance of 1,400 miles, accessible at all seasons, and thereby accelerate the delivery of the Canadian Mails and Despatches at least 36 hours in advance of the present route through the United States; and it would open up for colonisation and settlement by emigrants from the mother country, upwards of 14,000,000 acres of ungranted lands within a journey of ten days from our own shores.

That the present cost of conveying the British North American mails through the United States will be saved to the Imperial Treasury.

That the completion of this line of Railway would effect a great saving in military expenditure on the one hand, and render Canada much more easy of defence on the other, as she would be accessible within ten days at all seasons, whilst at the present time she is, in a military point of view, excluded from communication with the mother country for six months of the year.

That your memorialists believe that the immediate completion of a line of Railway from Halifax to Quebec is essential to the preservation and integrity of the British Empire in North America.

That your memorialists believe, that in addition to its aiding to the security and permanence of the British Empire in North America, accelerating the communication with the mother country, reviving that identity of interest with her which has been too long engrossed by the United States, the proposed Railway would also effect a saving to the Imperial Treasury, far exceeding any assistance that may be required for its completion.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to grant such aid and assistance, in conjunction with the Provincial Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, as will bring to a successful completion this great national undertaking.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

(signed) *Edward Coey, J.P.*
Henry H. McNeill, J.P.
John Thomson, J.P.
Sam. Gelston.
Thos. Hamilton Jones, J.P.
R. W. Bland, J.P.
J. H. Smythe, Clerk.
Johnston & Carlisle.
John Herdman.
Charles Lanyon, J.P., Mayor of
Belfast.
Geo. J. Clarke, J.P.
John Young, J.P.
Edmund McNeill, J.P.
George Gray, J.P.

Godfrey Lyle, J.P.
James Torrens.
Jas. Bristow, Director Northern
Bank.
H. Montgomery, Banker, North-
ern Bank.
W. Sharman Crawford.
William Valentine.
Jas. T. Bristow.
T. Bushell, J.P.
John Charters.
C. B. Grimshaw.
John Sharman Crawford, J.P.
Thomas McCammon.
Henry Murney.