

Referring to that part of your letter which states that, "it may be important to the Government of Nova Scotia to have a credit in London, pending the negotiations between the Provinces and the British Government," I am authorised to say that the Commercial Bank will grant a preliminary credit to the Government of Nova Scotia, upon the credit of the Colony, to the extent of Twenty Thousand Pounds Sterling, to be drawn for by the Receiver General, or other public functionary in accordance with a minute or resolution of the Provincial Government to be officially communicated to the Bank, upon the understanding that the advances to be made upon this credit shall be reimbursed to the Bank out of the first monies to be received from the Imperial Government or from the negotiation or sale of the contemplated securities, and in the event of the anticipated arrangement between the Government of Nova Scotia and the British Government not being completed, the amount advanced by the Commercial Bank of London to be repaid within twelve month.

I remain, &c.

(Signed)

C. D. ARCHIBALD.

The Hon. JOSEPH HOWE,
Provincial Secretary,
Nova Scotia.

9 GREAT GEORGE STREET,
Westminster, March 25th, 1851.

SIR,—

Having understood that it is proposed to construct through the provinces of British North America, certain lines of Railroad, to connect those provinces with each other, and with the Railway lines of the United States, and that Her Majesty's Government have consented to aid the Provincial Governments, by guaranteeing the loans or advancing the funds required for these works on certain conditions, which it is probable, will be accepted, we wish to make through you a tender of our services in the formation of those Railroads.

For our general standing, the extent of our resources, experience, and ability to fulfil any contracts which we may undertake, we would beg to refer you to the general sources of information which are around you in the Metropolis, and to the fact that we have executed either jointly or severally, nearly one-third of all the Railways in the United Kingdom.

We would also, as a further pledge of our good faith, always leave in the hands of the Provincial Government £30,000.

Our motives for making this early application to you shall be frankly stated: We assume that the skilled labor for constructing North American Railways, the plant, rails, and machinery, must be brought into the provinces either from England or the United States; and labour being lower here, and capital more abundant than in the United States, we assume that you will be supplied from hence. We think we may also assume, that from the amount of capital at