

recommence construction, the promise was not kept and the single extension of one year is the only one we ever received.

In this connection Mr. Provand called attention to the numerous extensions of time given the Interprovincial Bridge, Georgian Bay Canal, Pontiac and Pacific Junction Railway Company's bridge at Altonette Island, and offered them as showing the difference between the treatment accorded here to Canadian and to British investors. The practice had been to give extensions of time and to revoke subsidies. The Chignecto scheme is the only exception made.

THE COMPANY'S OFFERS.

Mr. Provand next outlined the various forms of relief asked of the Government, but to which no satisfactory answer had yet been given. They were as follows :

We have asked the Government for relief in various ways without success.

Firstly, by revoking our subsidy and charter, to which we are clearly entitled according to all Canadian precedents.

Secondly, if they will not do so we are agreeable to accept a sum as compensation and failing agreement as to the amount we are willing to leave this to be fixed by arbitration.

Thirdly, as the Government has not consented either to reinstate or compensate us we have asked for a Select Committee of the House to hear our case and report to Parliament which will then be informed of the facts and able to arrive at a fair judgment as to the merits of the question. The Government would incur no responsibility in granting this committee and need not adopt any of its findings unless they thought fit to do so.

Fourthly, I have suggested a reference to the Hon. Mr. Justice Burbidge of the Exchequer Court sitting as a Commissioner, to ascertain and report the facts, as he did in 1892 with several claims arising out of contracts to construct the Cape Breton, Oxford and New Glasgow Railways which were referred to him. In this case also, there would be no responsibility assumed by the Government in doing so.

So far they have not agreed to any of these proposals.

In conclusion Mr. Provand again called attention to the expenditure of \$4,000,000 by the company on the enterprise upon the good faith of the Dominion. He claimed there is no other instance on record anywhere of investors expending their own money on a public work not being allowed the time to complete it. He asserted the investors would not have put their money into the undertaking had they thought it possible they would receive such treatment and also that the investors had a substantial grievance and appealed to the sense of fairness of his audience for their co-operation in securing justice.

Replying to a question Mr. Provand said that the company had caretakers