

## The Union Advocate.

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NEWCASTLE, MIRAMICHI, N. B.

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### THE NEWCASTLE, NEGUANO AND TABUSINTAO RAILWAY.

For some time past negotiations have been going on between capitalists and others in reference to the building of a proposed line of railway from the deep water terminus at Newcastle to the place where the Caranquet and Shipagan railways, which was to be extended to that point. For many years the people of Neguano and Tabusintao have deplored the fact that they were so many miles from a market, and arrived at the conclusion that a railway was their only hope if they wished any improvement, and hence their aim of late years has been the building of a railway. Two years ago a line was projected under the title of the Douglastown Branch, and a Dominion subsidy of \$3,200 per mile, for six miles, a total of \$19,200, being granted to aid such line. It was proposed to further continue this line down river.

Owing to personal disputes as to who should build and manage the line, one or two of the parties named as capitalists, (and who have an interest in the line) should own the line, because they thought it was not given over to them to build and manage as they thought fit, prevented the accomplishing of the building of this branch which promised so much for Newcastle and the people on this side of the river if continued to the Gloucester county line, and in consequence the Company failed to commence the line.

A new Company was then proposed, the Newcastle, Neguano and Tabusintao Railway Company, and the attention of capitalists and railway men were called to the feasibility and desirability of building such a line of railway, and when it was shown that a connection would be made with the Caranquet railway, thus making the important port of Shipagan, (which has such glowing prospects before it if the direct line proposed by Mr. Burns is built), a central point on a road forming a half circle, with communication in both directions, there was no great difficulty in interesting far seeing business men in its favor and a company was formed and a bill prepared to lay before the local house for incorporation.

Among the incorporators are to be found the names of James Leabster, Esq., Ottawa, John J. McDonald, Esq., Ottawa, Francis Hughes, Esq., New York, K. F. Burns, Esq., M. P., Bathurst, and a number of others. Mr. Adams, Esq., acting as solicitor for the incorporators, and Mr. Leabster, Esq., as secretary, and it must be admitted that there was every hope of its being a success, and every prospect of work being at once commenced.

The bill was duly placed before the Corporations Committee of the House of Assembly by John Burchill, Esq., M. P., and was there strongly opposed by no less a person than Ernest Hutchison, Esq., one of the M. P.'s for this county, and whose interest in the line would be in favor of a line running in the vicinity of Douglastown, where he resides.

Mr. Adams went to Fredericton and met with the Committee and strove to overcome the objections raised by Mr. Hutchison, in some Mr. Adams gave way and others he insisted on the rights of the incorporators, and after several postponements, Mr. Hutchison having agreed to certain proposals made as to addition of names to list of incorporators, in place of some he objected to, Mr. Adams returned home leaving matters in charge of L. J. Tweedie, Esq., M. P., as arbitrator, fully expecting Mr. Hutchison would be honorable enough to carry out what he had agreed to. Among other changes made by Mr. Adams was that of altering the name of the Company to the Miramichi Bay Railway, but that was a small matter unless the intention was, by the addition of a large number of names of possible enemies to a railway down this side of the river to alter the route to the south side after a Dominion grant had been obtained for said railway, in fact to repeat the tactics used on a former occasion by which the Northern and Western got a subsidy not intended for that line of railway at all.

After his return, Mr. Adams received the following telegram from Fredericton: "You will not recommended yet. Hutchison backed out from his agreement by adding a few names."

To this telegram Mr. Adams replied: "Left committee in good faith. You have to decide. However will consent to anything as long as no adverse board has majority. Our friends here are only anxious for construction of road."

Mr. Hutchison succeeded in adding a number of names to the incorporators, as well as having the names of Edward Smith, Jas. Robinson, Anthony Adams, and John McDermid struck off altogether, such changes not having been agreed to by Mr. Adams, with the evident intention to get a board adverse to the proposed line, and thus block what the people on this side of the river consider a public necessity.

In consequence of the addition of names to the bill the original projectors have been obliged to direct that their bill be withdrawn, and Hon. Mr. Davidson was directed not to commit bill Miramichi Bay R'y Co., as Ottawa friends absolutely refuse to join or make application for subsidy. Please withdraw Hutchison, Hickson and original incorporators for same."

The fact is Mr. Hutchison and the Committee of the local house did not keep faith with Mr. Adams and upon their rests the responsibility, more especially upon the former, who has treacherously repudiated the people on this side of the river for the votes cast for him at the local election, and by whom he was elected, by blocking an important public work which would eventually become an important link in railway travel, as well as be a substantial bene-

fit to the place where he in summer at his residence. However the people will have an opportunity to decide before a very long time, and a man who has so much to say against the interest of the parish where he does his business shall continue to be placed in a position where he may block and prevent the onward march of progress.

In the meantime a railway fraught with interest to the people on this side of the river has been delayed, perhaps for years and by a representative from whom better things might be expected.

### FISH PROTECTION.

We publish below two of several letters received in reference to statements made in our article headed "Protect the Spawning Grounds." The objection to the statements in reference to the fact that Mr. Crocker in his interview with the local government, one writer stating "that Mr. Crocker and other net fishermen at the mouth of the river would like very much to have all the fish protected that manage to get past the killing array of nets at the mouth of the river, and thus prevent any one but themselves from catching a salmon in a net." Mr. John Mowat, an authority on salmon fishing, takes up the statements made and shows how the very opposite has been the case in the Restigouche river, in the depletion of the fishery by fly fishing while Mr. Jack endeavors to prove of good authority that Mr. Crocker's statements are very wide of the actual facts. These letters will repay perusal. Some of the points discussed are referred to in other letters and our space will not allow us to have other writers entering in some cases the same ground taken by Mr. Mowat, and as his letter is lengthy that must suffice for the present at least.

Editor of Union Advocate.—A year or two ago, I saw your article "Protect the Spawning Grounds," seems somewhat considered, will you please publish the following remarks, they being mainly intended to apply to the Restigouche river. Mr. Crocker's arguments showing the ruin of the Salmon Fisheries, may apply to the Miramichi, but not to this river. I shall also endeavor to keep clear of assertions and any figures, or facts, stated, can be counter for. That our local government will sell or lease any land or water they possess to raise the wind, I grant, but the public voice will yet be heard when too late, not having properly valued these privileges until deprived of them.

Whilst the Federal government claimed the right to the inland fisheries, and leased the different salmon rivers, portions of all the rivers were set apart for the natural propagation of the fish, not the Kedgwick from its junction with the main stream to its source, a distance of 40 miles, also the Patapedia having a course of 50 miles, two of the principal arteries of the river for the breeding fish. Shortly after the riparian rights were conceded, the local government leased those rivers, opening them to anglers for the sake of a few hundred dollars. However, our salmon are not like Mr. Crocker's and do not care to rise to fly in our upper waters, in fact June will not rise at all, but the anglers owing the lower waters seeing the necessity for preservation became the lessees for the purpose of keeping them closed, and but very little angling is allowed in them.

Mr. Crocker declares the leasing of the salmon streams threaten the ruin of the streams. Just let us look back for a few years at this river, and compare. It has been leased and angling since 1869, since that time the netting stations in the estuary and on the coast, have increased 150 per cent, whilst the catch has risen from 70,000 lbs. to 400,000 lbs. Does this look as if the anglers were destroying the netters? Again, there are three distinct and separate angling seasons, they have increased \$70,000 in real estate, they pay yearly for guardship, \$6,000, one gentleman alone paying \$2,000 of this amount, their guides, cooks, barges, horses, etc., cost about \$400 per day for six or eight weeks. Again, we have sixteen separate riparian owners not connected with those clubs, who have purchased from riparian owners and the crown, lands on which they have built houses, lodges, and all conveniences, as a lot of cost of not less than \$50,000, the daily cost of those anglers, including some other lessees who have no buildings, for boats, men, horses and other incidentals is fully \$140 per day. We therefore find since 1873 the sum of \$120,000 has been expended for lands and buildings, and there is now annually expended in say 40 days, about as long as our angling season lasts, \$25,000.

It is possible, as Mr. Crocker would have us believe, or can any sane man suppose, those men who have invested so much money in this property would wish to ruin it, by not killing the last fish. Does not their annual expenditure, their maintaining ten times the number of guardians the government did, their fostering the fish in every way possible, show their anxiety for their own sake, to keep up the stock of fish as high as possible, and by so doing are they not furthering the netters' interests as much as their own? do they not get the first pull at the fish? and does not the steady yearly increase of fish and new stations, (or applications for them), show the benefits of the protection afforded by those anglers to the natural protection, and which no angling is supplemented by the artificial assistance given by the Federal government.

Now let us look at the cost of the angling fish. Allowing 2,000 fish as the largest number taken with the fly in one year this gives an average of \$12.50 per fish actually expended in catching him, in fact it costs about \$1.00 per fish. This is paid out to that class who are not netters, who never perhaps own one, who never could have obtained a salmon fishery, in fact only for the angler never could have hoped to participate in any benefit from them. But our angling is not yet done paying out. His rods, lines, perhaps a \$500 fly book, his champagne, his groceries or his club house, his railway fare, why the expenditure alone on angling is \$1.00 per fish, and the greater portion of this money is expended if not exactly here somewhere in the provinces. Mr. Crocker has a fair the salmon angler

will increase so fast, every boat will be thrashed so much there will not be a fish left. Well, Mr. Editor, I cannot answer for the Miramichi salmon what they may do, but I can answer for a man who has so much to say against the interest of the parish where he does his business, and he can't steal one out of it. An expert might snarl one out in the evening, but by "thrashing" though, it is allowed him to try. Some 40 years ago was the general opinion that our spawning grounds were some 50 miles above tide water. At the time I speak of the fishery was at low ebb, there were not over a dozen of netting stations in the whole estuary, and the great majority of the fish killed, were by the Indians' spear and the settlers' drift net, assisted at the head waters by bands of St. John river settlers, in fact our salmon fisheries was in a fair way to be exterminated, but when the net was introduced, and the fish began to show on every bar on the river, now every suitable bar or gravel bed from tide water to its source has its quota of breeding fish, and the fish are in the tidal waters, as were the mother fish to congregate in large numbers at the head waters where the facilities for spawning are few, very few, and the natural product would ever come to life, so many fish together, and turning over the beds which other fish had deposited has the effect of not only exposing the eggs formerly covered, but also adding it so that it becomes a net fisherman's look at the angler as his deadliest enemy. With all due difference to you, I hope they will fish them.

Mr. Crocker declares the netters want all the spawners they cannot catch to go of course "if the tidal netters are allowed to fish, the fish will be exterminated, perhaps a little selfish, to want the whole product of the noble salmon, just because they are netters, is not a very noble aim. Again, Mr. Crocker declares, every fish killed on the river by the angler is equal to a thousand taken by the netter in the tidal waters. It is just possible there may be schools of fish entering the Miramichi which are not spawners, if so it is something new to the history of the salmon, as every salmon which visits the fresh water does so with the full intention of becoming a spawner. It is a complete failure to nature to do so, if it were not so, and he had the ability to reproduce his species in salt water we never need see the fish. 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