

CONFIDENTIAL

NOVA SCOTIA.

Application for Guarantee for projected Public Works.

(No. 190.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir J. HARVEY to Earl GREY.

Government House, Halifax, August 29, 1850.

(Received September 10, 1850.)

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship is aware, from the correspondence which has passed between the North American Governments and the Colonial Office, that for some time past a deep interest has been felt by the people of these provinces in the promotion of railways.

2. So long as hopes were entertained that Her Majesty's Government would aid in the construction of the line between Halifax and Quebec, public attention was concentrated upon that. As the prospects of its accomplishment became less definite and assured, other projects, either local or inter-colonial, were discussed, and resolutions or laws having relation to these were passed during the recent sessions of most of the Colonial Legislatures.

3. The construction of the electric telegraph, which now not only connects Halifax with the chief towns of New Brunswick and the State of Maine, but forms the most important link in the chain of communication between the Old World and the New; and the success which has attended that appropriation of the public funds, have attracted public attention to the practicability and importance of placing a railroad beside the telegraph.

4. This would give to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a noble highway through their territory, connect them by railway with all the principal cities of this continent, and secure to the port selected for the eastern terminus, commercial advantages with which no sea-port within the Republic could ever successfully compete.

5. While these views were pressing upon the minds of the leading men in the provinces, the subject was taken up in the State of Maine, and a Convention, to which the colonists were invited, was called, to meet at Portland on the 31st of July.

6. The proceedings of that Convention I have now the honour to inclose, together with the reports made by the delegates who attended from Nova Scotia, to the communities or committees by which they were severally appointed.

7. On the return of those delegates, the public mind in Nova Scotia became

[69]

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