

induced to guarantee the loans required by the Provinces to complete the system, a vast amount of money might be saved, and that the works would thus be remunerative at a much earlier period than if constructed in any other mode.

I came to England to press this policy on the Imperial Government, and I laboured here until my efforts had attracted to it the favour of the Press, of the House of Lords, of the Citizens of Southampton, and of many influential Members of the House of Commons. The Government then yielded, an apparently cheerful assent, and the guarantee was promised in a public despatch, which was at once forwarded to all the Colonial Governments.

Knowing that the consent of New Brunswick could not be obtained to the arrangement unless it included a provision for connecting her chief sea-ports with the system, and that if the shore line were provided for we should command the passenger traffic with the United States, and build up upon British territory fitting rivals to the great commercial cities of the Republic, I argued throughout that both Lines were essential to the preservation of British interests and dominion, and ought to be provided for. For six months, the people of British America, with the official Despatch in their hands, believed that the guarantee was given for both. As matters have turned out it is apparent that it might have been safely given, for the revenues of all the Provinces have so largely increased that they are