

The Quebec Board of Trade accepting the views and proposals of the visiting deputation to their city, deputed Messrs. Andrew Patterson, George Pemberton, and William Walker to act in concert with them during their stay, and nominated Alex. Gillespie, junr., Nathaniel Gould, and William Pemberton, Esqrs., to associate with the proposed deputation to London.

The Montreal Board of Trade acted in a similar spirit of good will, and appointed Wm. Ritchie, J. W. Duncombe, and Harrison Stephens, Esqrs., a sub-committee for the affairs of the Saint Andrews and Quebec Railroad Association, and nominated the same gentlemen in London as the Quebec Board had done, adding thereto the names of Henry Bliss, Esq., and G. R. Robinson, Esq., M. P. Chairman of the Lower Canada Land Company.

While the deputation from the Association were in Canada, they addressed a letter to Captain Yule, R. E., eliciting from him his views on the proposed undertaking, which were quoted, as follows:—

“With respect to that part of your letter in which you do me the honor to ask me to give my views generally relative to a Railroad between St. Andrews and Quebec, I cannot hope to be able to contribute any opinion which will render its importance more evident than is suggested by the geographical position of the former place.”

“The present times abound in works of this kind, and in the introduction of new projects endeavors are made to magnify every kind of advantage; these, however, are generally of a local nature.”

“But the work now in contemplation is probably the most important of any single undertaking.”

“To Great Britain it may be considered as a great national object.”

“It is not merely to connect one Province with another, but in continuation of the projected route through Ireland, those existing in England, and in the course of being constructed in the United States, its object is a new,—and by its nature,—the speediest communication which it will ever be possible to obtain between Europe and America; England, Ireland, and our Colonies to be the highway.”

“Such an object is far beyond the ordinary limits of commercial speculation.”

The Association had now the approval and support of Lord Gosford, the Governor General of British North America, the people of Lower Canada, and the two branches of its Legislature; of Sir Archibald Campbell, Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick, the people of that Province, and of both branches of its Legislature, as also of both branches of the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

The Resolutions passed by the New Brunswick House of Assembly were in effect,—That the construction of a railroad between the ports of Quebec and St. Andrews, an open winter port, would facilitate travel and transportation of goods between the British possessions, would promote the settlement of the country, and induce emigration, and would give additional employment to British shipping.

That for these reasons, and to facilitate the objects of the Association, the House passed a Bill empowering a Company to construct such Railroad, the Canadian Legislature to provide for the extension of the same to Quebec.