

SHERBROOKE, 25th April, 1883.

SIR,—I beg to hand you enclosed petition of International Railway Company,
I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Minister Railways and Canals.

E. T. BROOKS.

*To Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, K.C.M.G., Minister Railways and Canals:—*The Petition of the Board of Directors of the International Railway Company,—
SHOWETH:—

That the said Railway Company was incorporated under 33 Vic., chap. 54, with power to construct a line of Railway from Sherbrooke to the Province line separating Quebec from the State of Maine, there to connect with a line of Railway to be built in Maine and intersect the European and North American Railway, and so form a continuous line to a Canadian seaport;

That said Company has already constructed, and has in operation, their road from Sherbrooke to Lake Megantic, about seventy miles, and under contract and now being built sixteen miles additional from Lake Megantic to the boundary line;

That a Company has been formed in Maine to build the portion required to connect with the European and North American Railway;

That when completed, this will be by far the shortest route from Montreal and the West to a winter port in Canada;

That it is, in view of its length and terminus, a work of national importance, and it is necessary for its success, in contemplation of the large through traffic which must pass over it, that it should be laid with steel rails;

That twenty-nine miles is now laid in iron;

That said Company have not the means to purchase steel rails to replace the iron, and to lay the sixteen miles now being constructed;

That they believe that they are entitled, in view of the character and position of the road, to aid from the Dominion Government to enable them to make it in every respect a first-class road;

Wherefore, they pray that you will be pleased to recommend that a grant should be made by the Dominion Government sufficient to lay 45 miles of their road with steel, at a cost of not less than \$3,200 per mile; and will ever pray.

E. T. BROOKS, *Vice-President International Ry Co.*

OTTAWA, 14th May, 1883.

Memorandum.

The undersigned has the honor to represent, that, under date the 25th ultimo, application for assistance has been made by the International Railway Company, incorporated under the name of the St. Francis and Megantic International Railway Company by an Act 33 Vic., ch. 54, with powers to construct a line of railway from Sherbrooke in the Province of Quebec, to the boundary line separating that Province from the State of Maine, there to connect with a line to be built in Maine, intersecting the European and North American Railway, forming a continuous line to Canadian seaports.

That the Company represent themselves to have already constructed and in operation the portion of their road between Sherbrooke and Lake Megantic, about seventy miles, and have under contract and construction sixteen miles additional from Lake Megantic to the boundary line. In view of the large through traffic which the shortness of the route so to be created, may be expected to produce, the Company consider it essential that the track should be laid with steel rails; and they ask in view of the national character of their line, that aid may be granted by the Government of the Dominion towards the replacing with steel certain iron rails now in use, and the laying of the portion of the road now under construction.

The undersigned, considering that the representations made by the Company as to its importance as a national road, are well founded, and that it should receive such assistance, recommend that Parliament be asked to sanction the grant of a sub-