

amount necessary for construction of the subway, whether the representatives of the people will consent to incur the expense.

The surveys and reports can be easily and speedily obtained, and I trust that the report will be such as to justify the Government in entering the project.

Believe me to be

Yours very truly,  
JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The assertion has been made in another place that I used this letter as an electioneering document in Prince Edward Island for the purpose of securing votes for the Government candidates. One would have supposed that the gentlemen who made such assertions were the most innocent, spotless lambs in political life, and that it never entered into their heads to issue any circulars in their own interest or to ask the people of Prince Edward Island to consider this as one of the public questions of the day. I have on my desk here two circulars in English and one in French, which I may read for the benefit of the House. Another circular was also issued, concerning which, no doubt, the hon. Senator from Ottawa might, if so disposed, give us some information. These circulars were distributed in a secret manner, whilst my letter from Sir John Macdonald was openly read by me from the public platform and published in the newspaper press of the country. That letter from Sir John Macdonald was straightforward and showed that the Government of the day took an interest in this matter. I was not surprised that they hung back on a question of this kind, and that they took time to consider their answer. I have been a member of a Government myself and I know the duties and responsibilities which a Cabinet Minister assumes in dealing with a great public question like this, on which the public mind is not yet settled. I know that it is the duty of the Government to take every possible precaution to ascertain whether such a work is feasible before committing themselves to it. I have read a petition which was signed by every member from the Maritime Provinces except the one who has been sneering at this project in another place, and another who is not now in politics, Mr. Vail, of Nova Scotia. Those were the only two gentlemen from the Mari-

time Provinces on either side of politics who refused to sign that petition to the Government to have a survey made to ascertain the feasibility of this work. The former actually published a circular to say that by him and his influence alone was the survey obtained.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE — Who was it?

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I will give the name and I will show you the circular too. Here it is (producing a printed circular headed "The Subway Scheme.")

I will read the hon. gentleman what it says:—

"When the Bill came down to the House of Commons Mr. Davies tried to induce the Government to look more favorably at the scheme. A careful perusal of the debate will convince the electors that the survey is due to the efforts of Mr. Davies."

What did those gentlemen do? They went in for the survey. They said in all their circulars "If you want a subway built support us and our party. We know that our friends will build you a subway. A subway is a good thing." They found that the people were in favor of it and they made use of that popular feeling. In every county in the Island this was a prominent question and the Opposition candidates issued circulars telling the people that if they wanted to have a subway built they should vote for them. A change of 650 votes in Prince Edward Island would have returned six supporters of the Government, and when I state this, hon. gentlemen can understand that there must necessarily be a large number of people in Prince Edward Island who were favorable to the subway. When that question was up in Parliament recently and a discussion took place upon it in the presence of gentlemen, many of whom knew nothing about the local aspect of the question—who, if anything, were predisposed against it—there was not one solitary word spoken in behalf of that large number of people who voted in favor of the subway. I will now give the House the figures showing how the vote was cast in the late election in Prince Edward Island. It is as follows:—