

PUBLISHED BY A. W. SMITH.]

**IN VARIIS SUMENDUM EST OPTIMUM.**—Cic

[ \$2 50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE ]

No 11

SAINT ANDREWS NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 16, 1870.

Vol 37

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

DEBATE ON THE HOULTON BRANCH  
RAILROAD.

On that petition are the names of 117 men asking that the Town of St. Stephen may be assessed for \$15,000 to build a branch railway. Not to endorse the voters of that railroad, but a bonus that shall be redeemable 10 to 20 years thereafter. I would ask them to go into the history of the road. In 1866 the St. Stephen Branch Railroad Bill came before the House asking them to pass an Act whereby the Cash District of St. Stephen shall endorse the bonds of the road to the amount of \$100,000. The St. Stephen people responded to that call and they have endorsed the Bonds of the St. Stephen Branch Railway for \$100,000 at 8 percent. In 1867 an Act was passed to tax St. Stephen \$100,000 payable in 10 years to repair schools and sidewalks. The whole real estate in the Cash District is \$450,000, on which stands to-day a mortgage of \$110,000 that they are pledged to meet in case of the failure of the St. Stephen Branch Railway. We know that railroads are not paying, and although not called upon the first year to pay the interest there was no knowing when they might pay. He was glad to have the Bill brought before the House that they might give it full consideration. If they thought it was right that the Railroad should get this Bonus, give it to them. If they thought they should not get it, vote it down. There was a public meeting called, of which they would and we accept that communication to the "St. Croix Courier," there were but 50 persons present, and only twenty-five voted for taxing the Town. That petition there were twenty-one names that were

Mr. HUBBARD.—The advantage from the railway will go directly into the pockets of the St. Stephen Railway Company, the indirect advantage will go around the terminus of the Railroad which is largely owned by the Railroad Company. But suppose it goes to Canada; large number of the promoters of this measure are concerned in large milling operations on this side and they would gladly transport their lumber into U. S. territory.—He (Mr. Hubbard) knew something about the fears of the poor laboring man in regard to taxation, he had passed through life's rugged battle field, and had worked by the day, month and year, to support his wife and children, and he knew the fears they had that taxation would reach their small pittance.—That Bill goes further; it asks for an assessment on property and income, that the hired man shall be directly taxed upon his income, if he, men felt what he felt, and knew what he knew, they would say the right way to do it, it would be to postpone it for 3 months; on the principle of right and justice, when a place is already burdened as much as it can bear, any larger burdens should not be added. This is what this House is convened for; it was their duty and the people expected them to exercise it properly and justly in defence of their rights. If they thought that little pile of ground was not taxed enough, let them tax it more. If they thought that Bill was not a legitimate speculation, express it for a dealer for the St. Stephen Branch Railroad, then let them tax the people. If they thought these 174 men and women of small means were going to be directly benefited by this Bill, more than the tax, then give it to them. But he did not believe any such thing, he was influenced by no major motives, but only by a principle of right. He would not occupy any more time at present but as the House was in Committee he could speak as freely as he chooses in reply to any arguments advanced—

F. H. TODD, Z. CHIPMAN, WM. TODD, JAS. MURCHIE,	Directors of the St. Ste- phen Branch Railway Co.
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He would ask the House if that agreement

Mr. HIBBARD said he believed his son, who had been in the city, had been deceived in regard to that bridge. He had nothing to do with that, it is transferred to Ottawa, and it is there the charter will be asked for. The member for Charlotte (Mr. Bolton) is one of the men who have agreed to construct the road.

Mr. HIRSHAD said that those who petitioned for this bill were entirely deceived. He had already spoken in regard to why the petitioners had petitioned against it and he would now speak in regard to the petitioners who wished the Bill to pass. Calais has agreed to give \$15,000 towards this Railway, on the understanding that certain men will use their influence to get a bridge built across the river in order that that place may be the terminus of the Railway. Houlton has offered to give \$10,000 towards this road, in order that they may not require expore from Houlton down to Calais, as that bridge has been promised for the bill because she has been promised that the bridge shall not be built all. The people in the town of Calais are now petitioning their own Legislature, that they may be allowed to enable them to get this bridge built. That is the reason all these parties are willing and this Branch Railway. New Brunswick had given a subsidy of \$10,000 a mile for railways, but it was not right to take the revenues of the country to build a railroad into the town of Calais, to the detriment and loss of St. Stephen. The hon. member of the Government (hon. Mr. McAdam) had said he had intended to move to St. Stephen, and was willing to pay his share of the tax to build this bridge. He might have gone farther and told those that he had a large property at Houlton, where his manufactures four or five million feet of lumber every year, and wishes to transport it across the river to Calais. In this bill there is an unfair provision made, in regard to the way votes shall be given on the question to accept or reject the Bill. The petitioning names on the bill are the names of persons who have stock in the St. Stephen bank, and yet the President of the bank can come forward and on the stock of those persons can vote them down. Is that doctrine right, or is it law? If it is law, it is a corrupted law. The same provision is made in regard to Railway Corporations. A Corporation can come forward and vote against the wishes of the bona fide owners of the stock. He saws now that prompted Calais to give \$15,000 and Houlton \$30,000 would prevent St. Stephen from giving anything. If St. Stephen