

Against this sum it is claimed that the construction of the Railway would relieve Great Britain of certain known charges:

	£.	s.	d.
Payment to United States Government for the transmission of mails to and from Canada	25,000	-	-
Reduction in ocean services, as now performed by the Cunard line, Halifax being 547 miles nearer Liverpool than New York, in proportion to the whole subsidy, at least	35,000	-	-
Saving in transmission of troops and munition of war, at least	10,000	-	-
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	£. 70,000	-	-
To which may be added the sum which would be paid by the United States Government for the transmission of their mails by the Railway, at least as much as is now paid by the British Government	25,000	-	-
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	£. 95,000	-	-

On financial grounds we therefore do not hesitate to state our conviction that a large reduction may be effected in existing charges upon the British revenue; while, at the same time, the other and more important Imperial political objects will be attained.

We have now fully stated our views on this important subject, and it only remains for us to express our hope that if Her Majesty's Government are desirous of extending their aid they may be pleased to advise us of their views, and should they not be prepared to adopt the precise scheme submitted by us, that they will be pleased to inform us of the mode by which they consider the object can be attained more consistently with the interests of the Imperial Government.

We may add, that if it should be more consistent with your views to grant aid to this proposed Railway by way of subsidy, for the services hereinbefore enumerated, instead of an absolute grant of money, it would equally meet the expectations and desires of the several Colonies.

We have, &c.
(signed) *G. E. Cartier, per A. T. Galt.*
John Ross.
A. T. Galt.
Charles Fisher.
A. J. Smith.
Charles Tupper.
W. A. Henry.
A. B. Dickey.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.

Sir E. B. Lytton,
Bart., M.P., to
Governor General
of Canada, and the
Lieut. Governors
of New Brunswick
and Nova Scotia.
24 December 1858.

COPY of a DESPATCH addressed by Sir *E. B. Lytton* to the Governor General of Canada, and the Lieutenant Governors of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 December 1858.

YOU are doubtless aware that frequent communications have passed between me and the delegates who visited this country from the British Provinces in North America, relative to the proposal that some Imperial aid should be granted towards the completion of an Intercolonial Railway from Halifax to Quebec. The subject has not failed to receive the anxious consideration of myself and my colleagues.

I need scarcely say that the project is one which Her Majesty's Government cannot regard otherwise than with the best wishes. Even were no national object concerned, it would be highly gratifying to them that the British Provinces in North America should reap the local advantages which would be derived from the completion of this great line of railway. Those advantages, it is true, would not justify an outlay of British funds, inasmuch as it is evident that for an Imperial expenditure there must be an Imperial object; but I readily admit that the plan does likewise embrace interests of a general and national character. Independently of any military advantages which might attend the existence of an uninterrupted communication by rail over British territory in the event of any disturbance of the existing friendly relations of Great Britain with