

full meeting of my Executive Council, which ought to have taken place on Wednesday, 3rd instant. Mr. Chandler left home for the purpose of coming up, but was obliged to return; from Mr. Hill, I have not heard. This morning, however, Mr. Hazen arrived with some difficulty from St. John's, and a quorum of the Council has thus assembled.

I have laid before the Council, without delay, the documents relating to the proposed railroad, and I have now the honour to enclose a copy of a Minute which has been this day unanimously adopted by the Council. The meeting of the Council is not, as I have observed, a full one, but I have no reason to suppose, that this fact has made any difference in the views expressed by its members. or that the resolution now forwarded would be disapproved of by those who are absent.

With these views, I should add, that I, myself, most entirely concur.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Enclosure in No. 2.

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In Council, January 6, 1849.

Present:—

His Excellency the LIEUT. GOVERNOR,

The Hon. R. L. HAZEN,  
" J. R. PARTELOW,  
" C. FISHER,

The Hon. L. A. WILMOT,  
W. B. KINNEAR.

THE Lieut.-Governor laid before the Board the following papers:—

1. Despatch of Earl Grey, dated November 17th, 1848, relating to the proposed railway from Halifax to Quebec.
2. Printed Report of the Commissioners with reference to the aforesaid railway.
3. Letter and enclosure from his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia.
4. A letter from the Governor-General, dated 23rd December, 1848, and enclosing memorandum from the Inspector-General of Accounts for the province of Canada, together with a copy of a Minute of the Executive Council of that province thereon.

The Council having considered these documents with great attention and satisfaction, fully concur with the opinion expressed by Major Robinson in his very able report, that while the projected railway will be of great advantage to provincial interests, it is, at the same time, a work of imperative necessity, in a national point of view, for the preservation and integrity of his portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

Participating in this conviction, the Board anxiously desire to co-operate with the adjoining colonies in any practicable scheme for the completion of so important an undertaking.

Were the available resources of the province equal to our desires for the permanency of our connexion with the empire and the stability of British institutions on this continent, we would at once take upon ourselves our proportion of this great work, asking aid from no quarter; but as we, in common with our Canadian brethren, are now suffering from the recent changes in the commercial policy of the Imperial Government, we are left without the means of doing as we would.

Concurring in the views of the Inspector-General of Canada as to the continuance of the present protective duties on colonial timber, we readily agree with him in the proposition of an increase of duty from 1s. to 7s. 6d. per load, as a security to the British Government for any advances they may make for the completion of the railway.

Believing that but one opinion prevails in this province as to the great national importance of the project, the Council do not anticipate that any objection will be made to the additional impost on our timber, if such increase will be taken by the Imperial Government in security for the necessary advances.

Confident in the anxiety of the Provincial Assembly to do all in their power to forward this great undertaking, the Council believe that they will cheerfully afford facilities co-extensive with those proposed by Canada in securing to the Imperial Government the ungranted lands within 10 miles on each side of the line, and in obtaining, at an expense however great, all the private property required for the line and for the necessary stations within the province.

No question of greater importance to British colonial interests could be presented for the consideration of the Government. Upon it hangs the destiny of these provinces as portions of the empire; in its favourable termination we view the only guarantee of colonial unity and British supremacy in British North America; and so deeply rooted do we believe to be the attachment of this colony to British institutions, that we are of opinion no opposition will be offered in our Legislature to the proposition of the Canadian Government, however its adoption might bear upon what has hitherto been the principal staple of the province.

The Council concur in the views of the Inspector-General as to the impracticability of carrying out Major Robinson's scheme of the Imperial and Provincial partnership, and deem