

consolidating the provincial railways I would submit to my colleagues the question of taking advantage of the contract made by your Government with the company for taking over the Eastern Extension, by paying the money expended by the company, and making it a part of the Intercolonial, but when applied to by Mr. Holmes, I told him it was very doubtful if that proposal would be entertained, and that it would be useless to propose that a dollar should be returned to the Local Government. You are at liberty to make any use you please of this telegram.

Sd. CHAS. TUPPER.

(Applause.)

And now, I had heard Sir Charles Tupper on various occasions state his views in regard to this matter. He did so publicly several times in the County and Town of Pictou. But I am obliged to him for now giving me the opportunity, by allowing this telegram to be made public, to tell you that in carrying out an opinion of my own, that if we could get the Dominion Government to take these railways under their own management and advance the moneys expended in their construction, it would be better even than the great Syndicate scheme, I ventured to put it to Sir Charles Tupper whether he could not take back the Eastern Extension and give us back our money. He said "I will take it into consideration; I think we made a mistake in giving away the Pictou Branch; but we cannot return a dollar to Nova Scotia." He further said that he would not undertake the responsibility of even recommending the building of a line into the Island of Cape Breton by the Dominion Government. Perhaps it was hardly necessary to read these telegrams, because at a public meeting in Antigonish, where a large assemblage met the Minister of Railways and presented an address to him, urgently requesting the Dominion Government to take over the Eastern Extension and the Pictou Branch, and make them a part of the Intercolonial, his reply was that he might now tell them (for I had acquainted him with our success and the deposit of money under the contract), that the plan of the Local Government would be much better for them and the East generally than anything the Dominion Government could do for them. This declaration was publicly made in the Court House at Antigonish, in my presence, and in the presence, I believe, of the Hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McGilivray).

You will see, therefore, that this effort of the "Chronicle" is a deliberate, and, I cannot characterize it as anything else, most malicious falsehood intended to influence the people in the Eastern part of the Province.

Now there is one other matter to which I shall very briefly refer, apologizing to the House for doing so. Among other schemes devised by the enemies of Nova Scotia to defeat the beneficial arrangement for consolidating the railroads of the province and replenishing its depleted coffers a pamphlet has been published, to which no man has had the courage to put his name, and which bears upon its title page the name of "John Smith." There are a good many John Smiths, and the person who wrote the pamphlet, knowing that if he published his real name, it would probably not have much weight, appears to have concluded that the name John Smith would be better than his own. I do not intend to review this pamphlet, because it is worthless, but as parties ignor-