

things which he may deem necessary—the said Commissioner to report within as short a delay as possible—the fees of the said Commissioner, his travelling expenses, and all the expenses occasioned by the said enquiry, to be paid out of the subsidy granted to the said company, and he, (the Honourable Commissioner *ad interim*), being authorized to make such advances as he may deem right to the said Commissioner, for such expenses of enquiry out of the said subsidy.

The said Commissioner shall give notice to the interested parties of the day, hour and places at which he shall proceed to hold such enquiry.

Certified.

(Sgd.) GUSTAVE GRENIER,

*Clerk of the Executive Council.*

*To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:—In conformity with the instructions contained in a Commission, in date of the 3rd October last, appointing me to make an enquiry, among other things, into the difficulties that have arisen on the Baie des Chaleurs Railway between the Company and its contractors or sub-contractors, on the one part, and the workmen, furnishers of materials, and others, on the other, I have the honour to report that I have held the said enquiry and heard all the interested parties who presented themselves.

I am actually preparing a more detailed report; but as I have reason to fear a repetition of the strikes and troubles that have already broken out if the workmen and furnishers are not paid within the shortest possible delay, I deem it to be my duty to make a preliminary report, in order to recommend the Government, in the interests of public order and to prevent fresh troubles which threaten to arise, to take immediate steps to secure the payment of all the claims connected with the construction of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, comprised between Metapedia and Caplan. I annex to the present report a list of these claims for sections H and G, as well as for the other sections to the westward. Apart from those relating to indemnities for the right of way, all the other claims have been admitted by the contractors, so that there can be no objection to their payment or no dispute with respect to the different amounts. I may add that, in all cases, I found that the pretensions of the claimants corresponded with the entries in the books of Messrs. MacFarlane & Son, sub-contractors for the part of the road situated to the west of the Cascapedia River. For this part, the claims for work, workmen's board and materials furnished, including the sub-contractor's claims, amount to the sum of nearly \$29,000, as shown by the list hereunto annexed and the pay-lists filed and duly attested.

On sections H and G, of which Messrs. MacFarlane are the contractors, there is due by the Government a balance of subsidies to the extent of \$28,546; and as the Federal Government itself has retained about \$31,000 to guarantee the completion of the works which remain to be finished, I submit that the above balance of \$28,546 should be at once paid.

That the Government should, without delay, send a person to distribute this sum to those having claims on the said two sections;

That the workmen's wages should be paid directly, taking from them a receipt in the form hereunto annexed; and if there remain a sufficient balance to pay the contractors, to do so; if not, to distribute the said balance *pro rata* between their respective claims.

It suffices to refer to the pay lists—controlled by the depositions—to which it is easy to refer with the aid of the index following them.

I repeat that I deem it urgent that immediate action should be taken in the sense indicated.