

serve the general interests, AS A NATIONAL WORK, for all time to come. That into it new cities and centres of commerce and industry, as they from time to time arise and make progress, shall bring their branches to swell the volume of its mighty commerce and its world-wide influence.

The *great interests of the Dominion*—defence, cohesion, colonial intercourse, the fisheries, the development of the varied treasures of the Gulf coasts, immigration—all requiring the shortest and most safe route *through our own territory*, demand the northern route, while the EMPIRE and the WORLD have an equal claim that we shall not force them for all time to come to travel over an unnecessary hundred miles of inhospitable wilderness, or elect the United States lines from HALIFAX to VICTORIA.

CONCLUSION.

From the period that Lord Durham, then Governor-General of British North America, was first instructed to turn his attention to "the formation of a road between Halifax and Quebec," the Imperial Government have ever kept in view the connection of those two important strategic positions by the safest and shortest practicable *route*. Ever since the survey for a railroad was undertaken in 1846, it has in all reports, state papers, and official communications, been designated "The Halifax and Quebec Railway." Every offer of aid on the part of the Imperial Government has been in that name. In a memorable dispatch from the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Hon. Joseph Hawke, of the 10th March, 1851, the guarantee of the Imperial Government is made contingent upon arrangements to be made with the provinces of New Brunswick and Canada, for the construction of a line of railway, passing wholly through British territory from Halifax to Quebec, and it is expressly stipulated that "any deviation from the line recommended by Major Robinson and Captain Henderson must be subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Government."

In the following year, when application was made to the British Government for aid to construct a railway on a different route, Sir John Pakington, then principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a dispatch to Lord Elgin,