

7 February 1884.

The Right Honorable

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, K.C.B.,

*Ottawa.*

SIR,

I sent you on the 5th instant a telegraphic message containing the substance of a cable message received by me from the Directors of this Company in London ; and in order to guard against any mistake in transmission I deem it desirable to send you a copy of it.

The message was as follows:

“ Montreal, 5th February 1884.

“ To the Right Honorable

“ SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD,

*Ottawa.*

“ I am instructed by cable message to inform the Premier of the Dominion that the Directors of the Grand Trunk with every wish for the prosperity of the Dominion and the Canadian Pacific Railway proper, strongly protest against legislation embracing assistance to lines acquired by the Syndicate outside of the objects of the Canadian Pacific charter, thus using public money for competition against private enterprise.”

“ I have had no response to the suggestions which I made to you on Thursday last when I pointed out how all interests might be harmonized and their efforts united to build up and promote the welfare of the country.

(Signed) J. HICKSON,

General Manager.”

I would have sent you this copy yesterday, but I was prevented by the pressure of other important engagements from doing so.

It cannot be a matter of surprise that the Directors of this Company should protest against the course being pursued in connection with the Canadian Pacific Company.