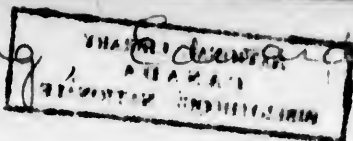


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Letter of E. H. Keating, City Engineer, to His
Worship the Mayor, in reference to the
Short Line Railway Question.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, July 9th, 1885.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Chairman of Short Line Railway
Committee:*

SIR,—As requested, I have looked through the various letters and reports on the "Short Line Railway" which have been published in our local papers during my absence from the city, and also the printed debates in the House of Commons on the same subject. A perusal of these documents tends to divert one's attention from the real question at issue, viz:—

WHICH IS THE "SHORTEST AND BEST LINE"

that can be obtained connecting the Canada Pacific Railway at or near Montreal with the harbors of St. John and Halifax? This is the vital question now agitating the minds of the people of the Maritime Provinces, and it is of the very first importance to the inhabitants of this and the neighboring Provinces, but more especially to the citizens of Halifax, that not only the 'shortest' practicable route, but the 'best' commercial line should be selected. By the best commercial line I mean the line which will, by the advantages it can offer in the way of low summits, easy curves and gradients and economical working, be most likely to be utilized as the main trunk line for carrying heavy freight, mails and passengers

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