

Brigus Junction to Clarke's Beach; thence to or near Tilton; also, the extension of said Railway now in course of construction from Harbor Grace to Carbonear. In connection with this magnificent gift presented to you by the Legislature of last session for nothing, we see your desire to drive an unscrupulous bargain, as the following proposals will prove. After this valuable road becomes your private property for ever, you say to the Government,

I WANT TO IMPROVE

my Railway by building a branch line into St. John's West. They vote you one hundred thousand dollars for that purpose. Then you say the road needs to be re-railed from Whitbourne to Topsail. They vote you another one hundred thousand dollars to re-rail your own line. Is that all? Oh, no! They deliberately vote you over 250,000 acres of land for operating a dividend-paying Railroad,—a Railroad that you previously offered to operate, without any land subsidy, and pay a rental of

FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS

per annum. Besides these concessions, they vote you the Municipal Basin and Marine Promenade for ever and for nothing. You wanted Water Street paved with granite to suit your Electric Railway. They vote you one hundred and forty thousand dollars for that purpose, without competition, or the consent, or approval of the Municipal Council, or the taxpayers of this city. Is that all? No, sir! The most barefaced public scandal has to be exposed in connection with

THIS "UNPARALLELED SACRIFICE,"

and I wish to direct the attention of the public to it. It has now leaked out that the Colony has to build all the railroad stations along the line. It was thought that you had to build these stations, because in common decency, honesty, and honor the people should not be called upon to build stations for your private Railroad. But we know now that outside the stations in St. John's the Government is to build all the stations, and pay for them out of the public funds of the Colony. At present the Government is building for you the following stations—Brigus, Brigus Junction, Carbonear, Clarenceville, and Bishop's Falls. After you submitted

PLANS AND ESTIMATES

for these stations, some members of the Executive said they were astonished at this "preposterous claim." These absurd concessions were forced through the Legislature on the plea of necessity. "Necessity is the argument of tyrants, it is the creed of slaves." The marked characteristics of your Contract are monopoly, tyranny, sacrifice, and slavery. It is monopoly, because, as Mr. Chamberlain says:—"The Contract will not even have the guarantee for efficiency and improvement afforded by competition," and because you own and control the most valued franchises of the people, and also because the exemption from all obligations on

YOUR LAND CONCESSIONS

give you a decided advantage over your competitors. For instance, if any other citizen had mineral claims extending 10 square miles, he would have to spend \$60,000 on the property before he could get a complete title. You may have the next claim the same size, and have an indefeasible title without spending a single dollar to improve the property. It is tyranny because your standing solicitor, Mr. Morine, used his position as Finance Minister, before the budget was tabled, to tyrannize and intimidate the Legislature by stating that the Colony could not meet its obligations on the 30th June. The Governor, in his despatch to Mr. Chamberlain, says:—"I have little doubt that it was the knowledge of

THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS

which enabled the Contractor to press upon the Government terms so much harder on the Colony." It is now admitted by men of all shades of political opinion that your solicitor's statement was a huge bluff to intimidate the Legislature. It is a sacrifice because the Colony has sold its assets, its lands, its franchises, for less than the value of a first-class passenger steamer. If the Colony was in difficulties to-morrow we would stand before the financial world with a huge public debt of nearly twenty million