

sive Colonial Ministers and many British Statesmen have declared (see despatches of late Duke of Newcastle when Colonial Secretary) that no line could receive the sanction of the British Government, which failed to secure the national object of security in time of war.

No such advantages, were they ten times as great as they are claimed to be, should have any weight with Parliament when the adoption of this route would render the road useless for the very purposes for which it was projected. This consideration places the Frontier route entirely out of the question, and we shall, therefore proceed to examine the merits of the others.

That we are fully justified in this conclusion will appear from the following remarks, and extracts from the correspondence :—

In 1851 a majority of the Government of New Brunswick refused to grant the necessary supplies for Major Robinson's line, unless the Imperial guarantee was also allowed to a branch line from Moncton to the city of St. John, 114 miles.

The Imperial Government refused to allow this and in a letter of Earl Grey to Mr. Howe of the 12th of June, 1851, there is the following passage, "I feel very sanguine of the ultimate assent of New Brunswick to the measure as proposed, and that we shall succeed in getting this most important work, destined as I believe to affect a change in the civilized world, accomplished."

In the spring of 1852, a delegation from Canada and New Brunswick went to England to ask the Imperial Government to give the guarantee to a line through the Valley of the St. John River to Canada, instead of by Major Robinson's route, to which the Government, in a despatch to Lord Elgin, dated the 20th May, 1852, refused in the following words :—"Her Majesty's Government are not only anxious, to act with the most perfect good faith towards the Legislatures and people of the Provinces, and to fulfil every just expectation which may have been held out by their predecessors, but they also sincerely desire to adopt all measures by which the welfare of the British Colonies in North America can be promoted as far as they can do so, consistently with their duty to the Empire at large, "But on a reference to the "correspondence which has already taken place on this subject, "and especially to the letters addressed by direction of Earl Grey