

cution of said contract, I was not in a position to ask the government to undertake further expenditures to any very considerable amount within the town at that time; and I therefore deemed it more desirable to enlist the support of private individuals and companies interested in the matter. The Sissiboo Pulp Milling Company at this time were operating a very large business at Weymouth, which is about eighteen miles distant from Digby upon the Dominion Atlantic Railway, and were seriously complaining of the disadvantages they were labouring under in the shipment of their products. They were for this reason most anxious to secure increased shipping facilities at Digby. The matter was discussed most earnestly throughout the town and by the officials of the said Sissiboo Pulp Company, as well as by other shippers, and a consensus of opinion was developed to the effect that it would be desirable to build an additional strip along the north side of the government pier, with an 'L' running northward from the end of the pier, and to have the dock thus formed dredged. This would permit of an additional track, and so provide the extra shipping facilities required. Part of the discussion among the citizens of the town was directed to the question as to what amount the town of Digby would be willing to pay so as to secure the construction of said improved wharf accommodation, in consequence of which a public meeting of the ratepayers of the town was called by the then mayor, at which the question was fully discussed, and the resolution cited in the contract was unanimously adopted. The whole project embodied in the said contract was placed before the said public meeting in all its details; and among those present, along with many others of my political opponents, was the gentleman who had opposed me at both my elections in the county. No dissent from the project to be embodied in the said contract was expressed by any of the persons at the said meeting, which was large and enthusiastic. I was present at the said meeting, took part in the discussion and gave my advice as to the best course to pursue. Many schemes were proposed, and it was conceded that it would be necessary for the town to aid in the undertaking, and furthermore that it would be necessary to enlist the interest and support of the companies and shippers. I had the assurance, previously to the calling of the meeting, that a large amount of extra business could be secured for the extended wharf if suitable facilities could be afforded. Previously to said meeting I had written the following letter to the town council:

Digby, November 12th, 1902.

To the Town Council of Digby:

Gentlemen,—I understand that you are about to call a public meeting of the ratepayers of the town to take into consideration the question of having proper wharf accommodation provided and the bringing to the port of Digby

Mr. COPP.

steamers to carry freight across the Atlantic. I have the following proposition to make in connection with these matters, which I would ask you to submit to the said meeting:—

I will undertake to provide the necessary wharf accommodation and to bring steamers to Digby, provided the town council will enter into an agreement to pay five hundred dollars cash when the said agreement is signed and executed, four thousand five hundred dollars when the necessary wharf accommodation is provided and ten thousand dollars when the first steamer is tied up to the wharf at Digby for the purpose of carrying freight across the Atlantic.

I remain, yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. J. S. COPP.

In making this proposal my intention was to interest capitalists in undertaking the work and if the proposal should be accepted, I contemplated handing over the contract to any one person or persons who would carry it to a successful conclusion. It was my belief, and I so expressed it at the said meeting, that the enterprise in the hands of a company would be of greater benefit to the town than if the extension were made merely as a government work and managed by a department of the government. I was not anxious or even desirous of undertaking the matter myself and suggested to the meeting the names of several gentlemen whom I thought more competent than myself, particularly Mr. George Robertson, of St. John; but the meeting were of opinion that they would rather deal with me. The contract was accordingly entered into after the said meeting between the town of Digby and myself, which is the document read by the hon. member for Lincoln. In pursuance of the said contract I did a great deal of work and spent a great deal of time and money in the endeavour to float the scheme. I visited Montreal twice in connection with the matter, secured guarantees for freight and made up an estimate of figures showing the profit that would accrue to the company constructing and operating this work. I submitted the matter among others to Mr. R. Wilson Smith, of Montreal, the president of the Sissiboo Pulp Co., and received considerable encouragement from him. My proposition to him and to the others that I approached in the matter was that the town of Digby would pay over to the company constructing the work the remaining \$4,500 mentioned in the agreement with me, and that I would secure the payment of the said sum from the town to the company or person completing the work. The \$500 which I received were paid to me to cover any expense that I might be put to and the disbursements that I should make in the course of the negotiations and I was to receive no further compensation for my services. I have kept no precise accounts of the expenditure of the said \$500, but I am confident that my expenses