

year would have largely, if not entirely, faded away. Probably the obstructions placed in the way were as largely to prevent our success in the raising of the money as any other reason. Therefore it seemed his duty to make arrangements to give the Government sufficient funds to carry on to completion at the earliest possible moment, the Red River Valley Railway; and with that end in view he set out to do what he could. He opened communication very quietly with certain persons where he thought he would be able to make the best possible arrangement. Under different circumstances he did not think he would have been warranted in doing so other than by public advertisement; but under the peculiar circumstances, in view of the fact of information coming to the Government on their taking hold of the reins of office, and in view of the difficulties met by the late Government, it seemed to him that it would have prevented the object in view had they asked publicly for offers, and had it been known from what source they expected to get the money. At the time the communications were opened they believed the same difficulties so far as disallowance was concerned, would meet them, as existed last year; but they believed that were the money got they

COULD OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES.

His particular duty was to obtain the money if possible; and he thought he would be able to show that the course he had followed was the only one that could, under the circumstances, have been adopted with safety to the Province. He had before him, and he looked carefully into it before opening negotiations, the correspondence between the late Government, and those with whom they had been endeavoring to get the money. He desired to make some references here to this correspondence, because, he thought it had a very direct bearing upon the position he had found himself in; and he also desired to place it before the House, because it had been stated by gentlemen on the Government side, that the late Government did not undertake in a hearty manner to get the money, and if they had done so they would have been successful. How the correspondence carried that out, he left it to the House to judge. The first letter was dated Montreal, June 11th, and was addressed to Hon. Mr. LaRiviere. He regretted exceedingly that that gentleman was not in the House, because he had statements to make which he would much prefer to make in that gentleman's presence; but it was no fault of his (the speakers) that he was not here. He would make his statements without reference to whether gentlemen affected were before him or not; he would "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." The letter referred to was as follows:—

MONTREAL, 11th June, 1887.
HON. A. A. C. LaRiviere, Winnipeg:
DEAR SIR,—Have the Syndicate's reply this morning, and would be glad to see you. I should have mentioned that on Saturday all banks and offices here close at one o'clock.
(Sd.,) A. T. DRUMMOND.

Following that was this telegram; to which no reply was found:—

OTTAWA, June 14th, 1887.
To Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere:—
From Montreal.
Shall I send you or wire Winnipeg results, and are you ready to close, or will you be back Montreal.
(Sgd.)

A. T. DRUMMOND.
The next telegram was as follows, and was the first correspondence in which a direct offer was made:—

MONTREAL, 16 June, 1887.
To Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere:—
Have confirmation my offer two and a-half premium; giving your money at par of exchange. Bonds dated first July; delivery Montreal or New York. Absolutely necessary; get your reply immediately.
(Sgd.)

A. T. DRUMMOND.
The reply to the above was as follows:—

WINNIPEG, June 18th, 1887.
A. T. Drummond, Broker, Montreal:—
Your offer accepted at two and a half premium. Money and bonds exchanged at par rate. No commission charges or costs allowed you. Bonds and money delivered at Montreal or New York.
(Sgd.)

A. A. C. LaRIVIERE.

MONTREAL, June 18th, 1887.
To Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere, Provincial Treasurer:
From Montreal.
Kindly cable my expense in two or three words. Morton, Rose & Co.'s acceptance their offer as requested, Saturday.
(Sgd.)

A. T. DRUMMOND.
This telegram following the one of the 20th, indicated that the agent in Montreal was becoming somewhat anxious because the Government had not accepted officially his proposals. On the same date the agent wrote a letter from which the following is an excerpt:

The offer of 2½ per cent. premium having been accepted by the Government two days after it came in, the following telegram was sent two days later:

MONTREAL, 20th June, 1887.
To Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere, Provincial Treasurer:
From Montreal.

On order being passed Monday cable quick to the address Morton, Rose, London, accepting offer and send me first mail for them official statement provincial finances, revenues, expenditures.
(Sgd.)

A. T. DRUMMOND.
On the 22nd of June another telegram was sent as follows:

MONTREAL, 22nd June, 1887.
HON. A. A. C. LaRiviere, Provincial Treasurer, Winnipeg:
I have a cable to-day from London that you had not officially accepted, by cable to Morton, Rose & Co., our offer. This is important. Kindly do so.
(Sd.,) A. T. DRUMMOND.

Four days later another telegram was sent, as follows:—