

enable the British Government to transport troops and munitions of war from Halifax to the St. Clair River in three days' time, or which would enable them to be conveyed, when the lakes are free from ice, to the very heart of the continent, in one week, would be of incalculable advantage to the British nation in the event of a war with the United States. Its construction, and the Union of these Provinces into one compact whole, would go far towards preventing such a war ever taking place.

But our expectations need not be limited to the Halifax and Quebec Railway as the only work of great national importance which would result from this Union. There can be no doubt that the great *impetus* given to British American national enterprise by the act of Union would speedily lead to the completion of a continuous railway line from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Many circumstances point to such a result. The only practicable railway route across the continent is said, and generally believed, to lie wholly within British territory; and in these days of rapid movement, the public which travels and trades between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of America, will never be content with any slower means of transit than a railway. Like the political Union of the Colonies itself, such a work appears necessary to prevent the great interior country drained by the Saskatchewan and the Red River, and which is not inferior in agricultural capabilities to any other part of the continent, from becoming gradually "Americanized," and ultimately annexed to the United States—an end to which it now seems tending. This railway would be indispensable to British America itself, were the Colonies of the Pacific coast comprised in the projected Union; and it is believed that all the advocates of that measure hope that they will be comprised in it eventually, if not at the outset. But exclusive of all merely British American wishes and necessities which may be anticipated relative to this Atlantic and Pacific Railway, Great Britain