

Senator Snowball asked if the Railway was completed, but no vessels used it, would the company be able to earn the subsidy if it were re-voted.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell said that if such were the case the company could earn no subsidy.

Senator Snowball said that in that case his advice was that if the Railway were completed the company should build a fleet, because no other vessels would use the railway.

Senator Perley expressed himself as favorable to a settlement of the claims of the company.

Mr. Provand then thanked the Senators for meeting him.

MR. PROVAND EXPLAINS.

Editor Journal.—Misunderstanding a question put to me at the meeting of Senators yesterday my reply may have been misleading. Please therefore permit me a brief explanation. The late Mr. Ketchum spent his private means in the early surveys and other work connected with his advocacy of the Ship Railway. I have heard he was repaid part of these, but I am unaware by whom. The company paid none of them. He never represented the investors who had no existence until the year after his negotiations terminated. My acquaintanceship with him commenced in 1892 on my first visit to Canada about the Chignecto business. I have been told that several of the incorporators named in the act also spent money in advocating the ship railway and were likewise never repaid. Mr. Ketchum was an enthusiast. It was fame and not profit he looked for in projecting the scheme. The difficulties it met with hastened his death and by his desire he was buried on a piece of high ground overlooking the Tidnish end of the railway. I have always understood his private means suffered by his connection with it, on account of his payment of initial expenditure.

A. D. PROVAND.



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