

2. I am to state in reply that Mr. Chamberlain has given careful consideration to the whole question, but in a matter where the Ministers of a self-governing Colony have stated that the financial stability of the Colony depends on the Contract for which they are responsible, Her Majesty's Government could not intervene without entailing on the Imperial Government responsibility for any financial difficulties into which the Colony might fall in consequence, and you will readily understand that this is a liability which Her Majesty's Government could not undertake.

3. The bondholders whom you represent have advanced their money solely on the credit of the Colony, and it is to those responsible for the management of its finances that they must look for the protection of their interests.

4. For this reason and others which have been set forth in a despatch* which Mr. Chamberlain has addressed to the Governor in reply to the petitions from the Colony, he is unable to advise Her Majesty to interfere with the operation of the Act.

I am, &c.,

H. BERTRAM COX.

No. 26.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received December 6, 1898.)

[Answered by No. 30.]

Government House, St. John's,

November 24, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you Petitions against the Railway Contract Act, 1898, as stated below.

I have, &c.,

H. MURRAY,

Governor.

By whom sent.					Locality from which sent.
Mr. A. le C. Berteau	...	...	...	...	St. Barbe District.†
"	...	...	...	...	St. John's East.†
"	...	...	...	...	Herring Neck, District of Twillingate.‡
Mr. P. F. James	...	...	...	...	Spaniard's Bay, District of Harbour Grace.‡
Dr. Tait	...	...	...	...	St. John's East.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Great Burin.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Burgeo.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Petites.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Channell.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Caplin Bay.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Tilt Cove Mine.‡
"	...	...	...	...	English Harbour.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Bay Bulls.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Witless Bay.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Ferryland.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Greenspond.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Placentia Bay.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Ladle Cove.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Hants Harbour.‡
"	...	...	...	...	St. Barbe.†
"	...	...	...	...	Freshwater, Redlands and Black Head.†
"	...	...	...	...	Harbour Grace.†
"	...	...	...	...	Topsail.‡
"	...	...	...	...	New Perlican.‡
"	...	...	...	...	St. John's West.‡
"	...	...	...	...	St. John's East.‡
Mr. E. M. Jackman	...	...	...	...	Maddock's Cove.‡
"	...	...	...	...	Petty Harbour.‡

* No. 23.

† Identic with that in Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

‡ Identic with that from the District of Twillingate (see p. 8).