

it may appear consistent with the interests of New Brunswick to co-operate cordially in such a scheme. Of this, at any rate, I feel convinced—your interests are part and parcel of the interests of British North America.

“In the Despatches laid before you, you will find the reasons why Her Most Gracious Majesty has not been advised as yet, to assent to the Act passed last Session in aid of the European and North American Railway : A Bill containing the proposed amendments will be submitted for your consideration.

“In my opinion, a Railroad uniting Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, especially in connection with a Line to the United States, would produce an abundant return to this Province : I believe that your Revenue would increase very largely, without imposing additional burthens on any one—that millions of acres now untrodden, would supply food for man, and that millions of tons of timber, now standing worthless in your forests, would find a profitable market.

“It will however be obvious that the introduction of capital from other quarters, is almost indispensable to the construction in this Province of works of such a character on a large scale. If you have made up your minds to have Railways, the question is—“How can such capital be got ?” The surplus capital of our own Province would go but a little way ; the distances are great, and our means are limited. You know as well as I do, that to withdraw a large amount of private capital suddenly from its present employments, would derange and dislocate all the ordinary industry of the country. The Farmer, the Fisherman, the Lumberer, the Merchant, and the Agriculturist, would have to forego at once the use of sums on which they severally rely for the prosecution of their business. Although it is no doubt true, that such an outlay would ultimately repay itself with ample interest, yet, in the interval, without an advance of capital from some other source, great distress would be suffered.

“Having said this much on the subject of Railways I leave the matter in your hands.

“Papers will be laid before you relating to the adjustment of our long disputed Boundary with Canada. I think I may congratulate you on a fair and equitable settlement of this question by an Act of Imperial Parliament, and I rejoice in having contributed to effect this arrangement.

“A powerful movement has been made in England for the reform of the Law, especially that portion of it which relates to the admission of certain kinds of evidence. You will have to deliberate whether the changes made in the Mother Country should be adopted here at once, or whether it would be more advantageous to watch their practical operation until another Session. I have no hesitation in avowing myself favourable to the principle of these changes.

“A general revision of the Laws is of essential importance, especially with a view to their simplification,—I therefore recommend this subject to your attention.

“A Bill for the regulation of Parish Schools has been prepared—when it is submitted to you, I am sure that it will receive at your hands all the consideration which the importance of the subject so peculiarly requires.

“The Post Office has been taken into the hands of the Provincial Government. The falling off in the amount of receipts consequent on a reduction of Postage is considerable ; but we must look to increased facilities for correspondence as an ultimate source of improvement in this respect. The moral and commercial advantages of cheap and easy intercourse by letter cannot be over-estimated.

“I rejoice for similar reasons in the extension of our lines of Electric Telegraph, which I hail as one of the most useful results of private enterprise.

“The improvement of the River Saint John has been in some degree retarded during this year, by the unusual height of the water during the Summer months. I shall cause to be laid before you a Report from two Civil Engineers on the scheme for cutting through Grimross Neck, which has indeed already been sanctioned by the Legislature, but in which nothing has been done.

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