

therefore, it especially behoved the Board to guard against misrepresentations from the same source in future. The language of some of the proprietors at the meeting upon these admissions of the Directors was "frequent, and painful, and free." The usual committee of investigation was appointed, and they propounded a plan for arranging the difficulties of the Company, which, at a subsequent meeting, met with the approval of the proprietors.

The next important step was to find some able and experienced railway man, whose duty would be to proceed to Canada, remodel the administration there, and obtain the sanction of the Canadian legislature to the Arrangement Bill. The gentleman selected to fill this important duty was Mr. Edward Watkin, the General Manager of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, and in the month of August, 1861, he sailed for Canada. Mr. Watkin's first exercise of authority was to dispense with the services of Mr. Ross, the Canadian President, Mr. Blackwell, the Managing Director, and Mr. Walter Shanly, the General Superintendent; and to appoint Mr. Brydges, of the Great Western of Canada, in their stead. In dispensing with the services of Mr. Ross and Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Watkin no doubt exercised sound judgment; but in parting with Mr. Shanly, the Company lost the most able and honest officer they have ever had in Canada; and in appointing Mr. Brydges to succeed him, an equally unfortunate step was taken. What the Grand Trunk wanted was an economical, hard-working, plain matter-of-fact man, but Mr. Brydges had lost the confidence of the Proprietors of the Great Western, owing to his extravagance and inordinate ambition for display. This was, substantially, all the work of Mr. Watkin on his first visit to Canada; and in the month of October he returned with his new *protégé*, Mr. Brydges, to London. The next proceeding of the Directors was indeed a remarkable one, and has been the main cause of the Company's subsequent difficulties. Mr. Baring resigned the position of President of the Board in London, and Mr. Watkin was appointed President in