

through which it will pass. That the opening of the Line would, in the districts it traversed, greatly enhance the value of the lands which are still lying waste, and also, though in an inferior degree, the value of those already settled, there can be no reasonable doubt; though I do not possess the means of judging whether the amount of that increased value has been correctly estimated by Major Robinson in his Report. Hence it seems to follow, that this increased value ought to be made available towards the execution of the work; and I would suggest for the consideration of the Colonial Authorities, whether it might not be advisable that Acts should be passed, vesting in the hands of Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, all the hitherto ungranted Lands lying within a certain distance of the Line, in order that these lands might be sold or otherwise appropriated for the promotion of the undertaking.

It might also, I think, be very reasonably enacted, that lands lying within a given distance of the Line, should be subjected, on its being completed and opened, to some moderate charge in the nature of a rate, in consideration of the benefit the proprietors receive from it. The practice is general, both in this Country and in America, of rating for the Highways the property which is benefited by them, and I can see no reason why this rate should not be extended to Railways. Should this suggestion be adopted, it would, I think, be expedient to give the owners of land, subjected to this charge, the option of redeeming it upon easy terms, and of paying in land when they might have a difficulty of doing so in money.

I understand from Major Robinson, that the owners of land in one portion of Nova Scotia, have already offered to contribute liberally to this object.

In addition to the value which the different Legislatures would be prepared to contribute in land or by the imposition of a local charge upon lands benefited by the Line, it would be necessary also for them to consider respectively, what amount they would be willing to grant from the general Revenue of the Province, towards the payment either of the interest of a loan to be raised for the execution of the work, or towards the sum which might be required to make good the engagements entered into with any Company that might undertake it.

The whole subject is one of the very highest importance, on which I shall be anxious to learn the conclusions to which the Colonial Authorities may come after mature consideration, and after such communication with each other as may be necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

Lieut. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

[*Vide Appendix No. 1.*]

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Message to the Legislative Council,

5th February, 1849.

EDMUND HEAD.

The Lieutenant Governor, referring to his opening Speech, communicates to the Council, copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on the subject of the settlement of Immigrants and the sale of Wilderness Lands, together with a Minute of the Executive Council thereon, and recommends the same to earnest consideration.

E. H.

(Copy—No. 43.)

LAND AND EMIGRATION.

Downing Street, 10th July, 1848.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 32, of the 27th of May last, enclosing the copy of a Letter from the Emigration Agent at Saint John, respecting the proposed Immigration, into the Colony, of a body of Scotch Farmers, together with a copy of a Report of the Surveyor General of Crown Lands, to whom you referred the subject.