

grades—where to be made. on such grades and in such places as the governor in council shall determine and appoint, as best adapted to promote the general interests.

Trunk line to be completed first. 2. The line to be first completed shall be that which, beginning at the harbor of Halifax, and extending therefrom in a northerly direction, will form a common trunk for all the lines to be hereafter made under the provisions of this act.

Other lines. 3. After the common trunk shall have been so completed, the railways shall be carried on in such direction as shall be approved of by both houses of the legislature, and shall be designated by an act of the province, or by resolutions entered upon their journals, and communicated by address to the governor.

Construction, management, commissioners. 4. The construction and management of such railways shall be under the charge of six commissioners, to be appointed by the governor in council, and to hold office during pleasure: one of whom to be so named in the commission, shall be the chairman, and shall have the right of voting in all cases, with a casting vote, in addition to his own, where there would otherwise be an equality of voices: provided that not more than one of such commissioners shall at any time hold a seat in each branch of the legislature.

Lines to be built by tender and contract. 5. The commissioners shall build such railways by tender and contract, after the plans and specifications therefor shall have been duly advertised, and they shall accept the tenders of such contractors as shall appear to them to be possessed of sufficient skill, experience, and resources, to carry on the work, or such portions thereof as they may be willing to contract for. But where the commissioners, in any case, deem it for the public interest not to accept the lowest tender that may be made, it shall not be competent for them to accept a higher tender without the approval of the governor in council. And where any tender is higher than in the judgment of the commissioners, or of the governor in council, it is prudent to act on, the same shall not be accepted; and in such case the work shall be suspended for a time, and new tenders advertised for, when the legislature or the governor in council shall deem it expedient to proceed.

Contracts—conditions for performance of. 6. The contracts to be so entered into shall be guarded by such securities, and contain such provisions for retaining a proportion of the contract monies, to be held as a reserve fund for such periods of time, and on such conditions, as may appear to be necessary for the protection of the public, and securing a due performance of the contracts.

Chief Engineer—appointment and duties of. 7. The governor in council shall appoint a chief engineer, to hold office, during pleasure, who, under the instructions he may receive from the commissioners, shall have the general superintendance of the works to be constructed under this act, and whose duty it shall be to measure the work done, and for which payment shall be claimed,—to report upon the lines to be selected—the permanence of the works to be designed or executed—the strength of the rails—the sufficiency of plant and rolling stock,—and the faithful fulfilment of the contracts which may be entered into.