

8th of December, 1892, I received a telegram from Mr. Whitney in the following words :

BOSTON, Dec. 8, 1892.

HON. W. S. FIELDING, *Halifax*.

Would like very much to see you. If impossible for you to come here I will go to Halifax, but it would accommodate me very much if you will come here, both on account of my engagements and because my associates want to meet you.

H. M. WHITNEY.

Several telegrams followed, as the result of which it was arranged that, at a date which was mutually convenient, I should go to Boston for the purpose of meeting Mr. Whitney and his associates. The object of that meeting was that Mr. Whitney and his associates were making arrangements with Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., who were to assist them financially, and as some questions had been raised with regard to the form of the arrangement, they thought it desirable that a member of the Government should be present. My visit did not lead to any change in the arrangement. The only advantage of my being present was to make explanations which facilitated the scheme.

Then, apparently, a difficulty began to arise; the possibility of the Act of the Province of Nova Scotia being disallowed by the Government at Ottawa came to the notice of the gentlemen connected with the project. Mr. Whitney had gone into the matter thoroughly some time before this, and did not regard the point as of importance. If he has done so we should have been obliged to communicate with the ministers at Ottawa, in order to have the doubt removed. Mr. Whitney did not think that was necessary at the time; but, in the course of the negotiations with Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., the point came up again, and it was thought better, if there was a doubt, that it should be removed, and in consequence of that there seemed to be a possibility of a slight hitch arising in the proceedings.

THE EARLY SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Meanwhile Mr. Whitney expressed a strong desire for an early meeting of the Legislature. I am of the opinion, and I understand that legal gentlemen are of the opinion, that the arrangement which our Government made with Mr. Whitney is entirely legal, valid and binding at the present moment. Nevertheless the slightest doubt cast upon the validity of the proceedings would be calculated to drive away capital, and, in view of this, the bankers said that in going to