

accessible at all seasons. Indeed, it is necessary that such a road should be completed without delay. It has been truly observed by Canadian authorities, that

"The Colony has received the solemn assurance of the Imperial Government, a promise on which she implicitly relies, that while she is expected to assume her share of the burden of any force which her own internal wants may require in time of peace, yet that the whole power of the empire will be put forth for her protection and security against foreign aggression. Canada has acted on this assurance, and performed her part of the obligation; but we would respectfully urge that, without means of communication with Great Britain, the Imperial Government is powerless to perform its share; and that the very first step towards the fulfilment of the promise is to provide proper access to the country."*

Another point, which is matter of imperial concern, is the increased rapidity with which the postal communication would be conducted. The weekly European mails now arrive in Canada alternately by way of New York and Boston. The ship that takes the mails to Boston touches at Halifax, and yet is obliged to land its mails at Boston, which port is reached in from thirty-five to forty hours after leaving Halifax. But supposing that the railroad were built, and the trains running over it at the rate of twenty-five miles per hour, the mail would be delivered in Quebec about twenty-four hours after the arrival of the steamer at Halifax, at Montreal in about thirty hours, and in Toronto in about forty hours. The mail would thus arrive at the capital of Canada West nearly at the same time that it now starts on its thirty or thirty-five hours' journey to the same point.

Earl Grey in a despatch dated 14th March, 1851, announced that Her Majesty's Government were willing to assist in the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway.

I cannot better describe the way in which his lordship proposes to do this, than by transcribing a few lines of his despatch. He says:—

"Although Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that great caution ought to be observed in pledging the credit of the British treasury, in aid of loans raised in the colonies, they regard the work now in contemplation as being (like the St. Lawrence canals) of so much importance to the whole

* See the Hon. J. Rose and the Hon. J. A. Macdonald's Memorandum to the Imperial Government.