

sing to me the government's policy on railway questions. I would have never had the presumption of meddling myself with those important questions. I only mentioned by the way a project to turn off the trade of the Pacific from Montreal and Quebec; not because I have advices to tender you, but in order to draw your attention to the fact that it is difficult to understand how Mr. Pope, the southern railroads man, could take the part of the North Shore on this question against his own interest. As to the policy of your government, I never thought of criticising it nor being astonished at the fact that instead of inducing the Pacific to purchase the North Shore Railway you gave \$6,000 or \$12,000 per mile, I do not know how much, to a projected railroad. I would be the last man to rebuke you for that project if I did not find in it an attempt to cover it by an imaginary impossibility which some persons try to attribute to me and turn away public opinion from its real object. I have no reason to become, without any mission, the defender of the interests of Quebec which cannot, however, be jeopardized if the law of trade is such as you represented it and if it is not necessary to make any particular effort in order that Quebec may enjoy all the traffic which its port deserves.

Far from rendering the purchase of the North Shore Railway impossible, I have on the contrary made it the most easy. My dealings with Messrs. Hickson and Wainwright have put me in a position to ascertain their views and their disposition and I have intimated to you and I informed some of your colleagues of the fact that the Grand Trunk, to realize the wishes of the Government and to become agreeable to the Quebec representatives, would be willing to sell the North Shore Railway at cost price. The Grand Trunk has also offered, in case the purchase should not be expedient, to grant as far as Quebec running powers for the locomotives and the trains of the Pacific, and with the use of its terminus at deep water and in order that the Pacific would have the assurance of not being troubled in the enjoyment of the privilege, to refer all disputes to the decision of the Government; so that without being obliged to spend a cent, the Pacific could use the North Shore Railway as if it were their own property.

I will further say, to follow you on the ground covered by your letter, that if it is deemed expedient to drop the prey for the shadow you will not yet find the solution of the problem which Quebec is seeking so long as you will not take the means of controlling the good will of the Pacific, who succeeded in obtaining, under a disguised form, a vote of three millions to go South. I will also remark that if you rely only on the