

contractors at the expense of the Province," as well as of the Railway Company, I can only say that it has never been my practice to answer newspaper attacks made either upon my integrity or ability as a Civil Engineer.

If a tolerably long and active life devoted entirely to the profession, upon some of the most important works of public improvement upon the American continent, has not secured for me a reputation that is above and beyond any injury that can be effected by the publication of cowardly articles of this kind, it would certainly be useless for me to attempt to bolster it up by any other means, at this late day in my professional life.

It may not be out of place, however, to enquire, at the present time, why Mr. Legge, "the astute, clever, and experienced Chief Engineer of the Northern Colonization Railway," as he is called in the article referred to, or some other of the "eminent Canadian engineers in whom the public have confidence," have not during the past twenty years in which the North Shore Railway has been in a languishing and almost dying condition, discovered its peculiar merits as "the first link in the Great Northern Railway, to extend at no distant date from one end of our Province to the other," as is very justly claimed by the article referred to; and have not by their reports and representa-

tions in its favor, induced Canadian contractors to undertake its construction, and thus reap for themselves the enormous benefits that it is claimed will accrue to American contractors, who, at this late day, and almost solely upon my estimates and representations, have in good faith undertaken to construct the road.

I have deemed it proper to make the foregoing statements in defence of the previous policy of the Company as connected with the present contract, in order that the members of the present Board, who are not entirely familiar with the past history and present condition of the Company, may act intelligently and without prejudice upon the important proposition which is now before them.

Having thus performed my duty in the matter to the extent of my ability, and entertaining a firm conviction that the immediate and rapid construction of the railway, as well as its future success, depend entirely upon the decision of the Board with reference to the question now before it, I leave the matter in the hands of the Directors.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

SILAS SEYMOUR,
Engineer-in-Chief.

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