

## No. 8.

(See page 29.)

*Halifax, 19th November, 1851.*

The committee to whom was referred the enquiry touching the contribution by counties through which the proposed railway may run, and the mode of appraising and paying for lands required in carrying out the project, report on the first question, by a majority, as follows :

That although the committee think it just in principle that land owners in the vicinity of the railroad should contribute for the benefits they may be expected specially to receive, yet the committee is not prepared to report any scheme by which that result may be practically attained.

On the second question the committee reports :—That the price of lands required for the railway, whether for the track or for stations, or other necessary uses ; and also all damages to which the land proprietors may be entitled, shall be paid by the counties in which the land shall lie, to be raised by assessment ; in the apportionment of which assessment respect should be had to the relative benefits derived from the railway by the several portions of the country. The committee is also of opinion that the railway commissioners should have power, by their own authority, to take such lands as they may think necessary for the railway—for the track, for stations, and other necessary uses) ; and may immediately enter upon the use of such lands without waiting for agreement as to price or compensation with the land owners ; but land taken for the track should in no case exceed the breadth of ——— feet, and land taken for stations or other necessary uses should in no case exceed the quantity of ———, unless by the consent of the proprietor. The commissioners should have power to agree with the land owner, mortgagee, lessee, and other party interested, for the amount of the respective damages and the value of land, &c.,—the agreement to be submitted to the sessions for approval. In case of no agreement, or the agreement being dissented from by the sessions, a committee of appraisal shall be named, consisting of one appointed by the sessions and another by the land proprietor,—these land appraisers having power to add a third, should they see fit. In the agreement between the commissioners and the land owners, and in the appraisal by the committee, the advantages to the land owner from the railway shall be taken into the consideration, and the price of land and amount of damages may be reduced or extinguished by such consideration.

The railway commissioners, within ——— months after assessing any lands for the use of the railway, should return an exact plan of the boundaries of the lands so assessed, to the clerk of the peace of the county in which the lands lie, and also to the provincial secretary's office ; and the title to the lands so assessed and described, shall thereupon be held to be vested in the [queen for the use of the railway] commissioners, who shall be a corporation for that purpose, for the use of the railway ; and each proprietor shall be entitled to receive gratuitously from the commissioners, upon request, a copy of the plan of the lands so transferred from him.

J. W. JOHNSTON, chairman.

## No. 9.

(See page 42.)

The committee on post office affairs beg leave to report as follows :

Your committee have had under consideration a scheme for the transmission of the mails between Halifax and Sydney, and Guysborough, submitted by Mr. Hyde, and also the arrangements by which that service is now performed. Numerous complaints have been made as to the irregularity of the arrival of the mails at several places on the line, and also  
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