

made it will lead to a reduction in the tariff, and the I. C. R. would suffer by the reduction unless an equivalent advance was also made, *pari passu*, on the I. C. R.

Your petitioners pray that you will be pleased to exercise the power vested in you by the Truro and Pictou Railway Transfer Act, and refrain from sanctioning any increase in rates which have been current for years, until you have satisfied yourself that an increase is advisable for the majority of interests involved. And as in duty will ever pray,

Your humble and obedient servant,
The Coal Association of Pictou County.

Representing { The Halifax Company (Limited),
" Vale Coal, Iron and Manufacturing Company,
" Intercolonial Coal Mining Company,
" Acadia Coal Company.

JOHN R. GREEN, *Secretary*.

Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Minister Railways and Canals.

"RUSSELL HOUSE," OTTAWA, 8th October, 1883.

SIR,—The Government of Nova Scotia received on the 4th inst. a Communication from your Department dated the 1st inst., addressed to the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works and writes with reference to the "Pictou Branch Railway;" while it appears from that Communication, that the Dominion Government are unable to comply with the present demand for the transfer of the Branch, the reasons for this conclusion are not stated. The Government of Nova Scotia have to request that you will be pleased to inform them of the grounds upon which the refusal is based.

To facilitate the transaction of this business, which is of so great importance to our Province, the undersigned members of the Government of Nova Scotia have been deputed to visit Ottawa, and will be glad to receive a statement as to the views of the Dominion Government regarding this matter.

We have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

WILLIAM T. PIPES,
W. S. FIELDING.

Hon. J. H. POPE, Acting Minister of Railways.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER,
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS,
OTTAWA, 10th October, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, for the consideration of the Hon. Acting Minister, a letter from the Vice-President of the Intercolonial Coal Mining Company, on the subject of the transfer of the Pictou Branch to the Government of Nova Scotia.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. SCHREIBER, *Chief Engineer and General Manager*.

A. P. BRADLEY, *Secretary*, Railways and Canals.

INTERCOLONIAL COAL MINING COMPANY (LIMITED), "DRUMMOND COLLIERY,"
MONTREAL, 9th October, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—The Local Government appears to be pushing at Ottawa to capture the Pictou Branch, and with some prospect of success.

We hope sincerely that no change will be made, until arrangements are perfected to carry on the coal business with sufficient rolling stock and engine power.

We fear it is too late to stop a transfer, but we are satisfied that great disadvantages will arise, not only to the coal properties, but also to the Intercolonial Railway.

We will require transport during winter of an average weekly output of 2,000 tons. 1,000 tons of this will go to the Steel Company at Londonderry; Halifax will