

this undertaking respecting the effect which it was said to have on the credit of the province. He denied altogether that the Government was interested in the slightest degree in the cost of the undertaking, whatever it might be. The province paid nothing. It would only promise to guarantee the amount of £3,000 per mile, for which it was to have the first mortgage on the road with interest at six per cent. He did not care how much the stockholders laid out on the road; the more they expended the better it was for the province. One thing he was pretty certain of, the Grand Trunk Railway Company would not ask for a single penny from the province, for they could get money in England at a much less rate than six per cent without being subject to the restrictions which were to be imposed upon them if they accepted the Government guarantee, in having directors on the part of the province.

In 1854 the Grand Trunk Railway Company came back again to the Government of the day in Upper Canada. In 1855 they came back again. In 1856 they came back again and they asked to be allowed to issue preferential bonds to the extent of £2,000,000. In 1857 the Government were so disgusted with the whole thing that what did they do? They brought in a measure to sever the connection between the executive and the commercial enterprise. Listen to what Mr. Cayley said in 1857. He was the Inspector General which is practically Minister of Finance.

The first object of this Bill is to dispense with the Government directors in the company. The position of Government directors has been the occasion of casting upon the Government a good deal of reflection. All the management on the part of the Grand Trunk Railway Company has been cast upon or attempted to be cast upon the Government. The position has been an unenviable one. Now we propose to do away with the responsibility of the Government, and to give the entire management into the hands of the company. It has been suggested to have one member of the Government in the board with a view of exercising a supervision over its affairs, but this arrangement in the board only leaves to that member the same responsibility while depriving him of the advice and support of his colleagues.

In the light of the experience of Upper Canada, in the light of the economic conditions that I have laid before this House to-night, the Government ask me to support this measure. All I have to say is that I cannot see eye to eye with them. I have tried to place fairly before the House my reasons for my stand. If they are incorrect, it is open to other gentlemen to refute them, but as I have spoken so I believe.