

important project of completing an Inter-Colonial line of Railway between Quebec and Halifax.

I enclose for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General, a copy of the Communication of the Delegates from this Province, when urging upon the British Government,—in conjunction with the Hon. Mr. McDonald, the Delegate from Canada,—the reconsideration of this great enterprise, during the past summer.

The embarrassment caused by the difficulties in India, rendered the time unpropitious, and the absence of any Delegate from New Brunswick probably prevented more than a warm expression, on the part of the Colonial Secretary, of the deep interest felt upon the subject by the British Government.

The Despatch forwarded by the Government of New Brunswick, although too late to subserve the views of the Delegates, evinces the anxiety entertained by that Province in this undertaking, and shows that that Colony was not represented in the Delegation, owing to the late period at which the Despatch of Lieutenant-General Sir William Eyre, reached Fredericton.

His Excellency Sir Gaspard LeMarchant thinks it very desirable that a mutual understanding on this subject should be had at an early period between the three Provinces so deeply interested; and I am commanded to invite the communication of the sentiments of the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick, respectfully, and to solicit their suggestions as to the mode most acceptable to them by which such an interchange of opinions may be obtained. The Legislature of this Province will meet in the early part of February.

We have now under contract all that portion of the Railway which is common to the Trunk Line and the Branch to Pictou; and it is very important that we should know whether there is a probability of an Inter-Colonial line being arranged before we expend the means at our command in carrying the road to Pictou.

Should the improbability of the Trunk Line being carried through compel us to adopt the latter policy,—by which we open communication with the Gulf of St. Lawrence,—we see no reasonable prospect of our being able to construct a Railway to the New Brunswick border for many years.

A copy of this Letter, as also the enclosure, will be sent to the Government of New Brunswick, and their coöperation invited.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES TUPPER.

The Honorable the Provincial Secretary of Canada.

*Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax, Nov. 23rd, 1857.*

SIR,—

I have it in command from His Excellency Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, the enclosed copy of the communication of Messrs. Johnston and Archibald to the British Government, on behalf of Nova Scotia, with reference to an Inter-Colonial Railway, and also a copy of a letter addressed this day to the Government of Canada, upon the same subject.

It is much to be regretted that New Brunswick was not represented by a Delegate, when this question was recently pressed upon the Home Government.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province considers it highly desirable that no time should be lost in ascertaining the views of the three Provinces on a subject fraught with such deep consequences to all of them, and trusts that some means will be suggested by which the views of each may be understood, and, if possible, a basis of coöperation be devised.

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