

MONCTON, 27th February, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,—I send you a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Green, the Engineer who made the survey for me of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, by Dr. Fortin, M.P.

Yours, very truly,

P. S. ARCHIBALD.

C. SCHREIBER, Esq., Chief Engineer Government Railway.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, 12th February, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in sending you, herewith, an official statement which Mr. E. E. Taché, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Quebec, has been kind enough to send, showing the area of each of the Townships and Seigniories which are to be traversed by the Baie des Chaleurs Railway from Paspébiac to Gaspé Basin, containing also a detailed statement of the number of acres of land sold and unsold in each of these Townships.

The quantity of land unsold amounts to no less than 460,895 acres, most of which is of a good quality and covered with timber of different kinds, but, with pine, spruce and maple predominating. This area would make 4,600 farms of 100 acres each, and capable of supporting a population of 36,800 allowing eight persons to each farm.

In this enumeration, I do not include the population of the villages that would spring up at each Railway station along the line.

I believe I am safe in putting down the population that would develop itself in these partly unsettled Townships at not less than 45,000, provided a Railway were built as above indicated. This population added to the 20,000 already existing in this region, would give 65,000 inhabitants on that portion of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway.

Moreover, through the agency of this Railway, agriculture, fishing, and other industries, would be developed in a marked degree within the Townships adjacent to these through which the Railway would pass; and from this direction I may add also another 10,000 inhabitants, who would be feeders to the Railway in question, making in all a population of 75,000 who would be direct customers to its traffic.

I have already stated that there are 460,895 acres of land still unsold in the Townships through which the Railway would pass, besides this, there are in the same Townships 771,635 acres of land sold, but the grant-money therefor not yet paid, probably about one-half of the lots are not yet settled upon. With a Railway, these lands would be settled at once, and thereby materially add to the present population and productions of the now existing settlements. To these I shall add the following figures, illustrating the immense area of the County of Gaspé and the necessarily large tracts of good lands yet open to colonization in that part of Canada.

The County of Gaspé has a total area of 4,584 square miles, equal to 2,933,760 acres, and as a point of comparison it may be stated, that Prince Edward Island contains an area of 1,365,400 acres.

Hence the County of Gaspé alone is twice as large as that of the whole Province.

With these figures before us, it is easy to anticipate the beneficial results that would inevitably accrue from the building of a Railway from Matapédia, at the junction where it would join the Intercolonial Railway, through the County of Gaspé. A County immense in area and possessed of great and varied resources.

Believe me, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

N. H. GREEN, Esq., C.E., Montreal.

P. FORTIN, M.P., for Gaspé.

STATEMENT showing the area of certain Townships and Seigniories in the Counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure.

Townships and Seigniores.	Area in Acres	Not Sold, Acres
Hope.....	63,000	19,377½
Port Daniel.....	72,520	44,496½
121—3½	35	