

OTTAWA, APRIL 30th. 1901.
To the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
Prime Minister.

Dear Sir :

CHIGNECTO RAILWAY.

I beg to enclose herewith a copy of the Report of the Meeting of Members of the House held in the Committee Room on Thursday last, reprinted from the Evening Journal.

The Report does not fully convey the sense of the meeting which was unanimously in favor of the claims of our investors being recognized by the Government and settled by compensation. More Members spoke and stronger words were used than are quoted in the Report.

Some of those present said they knew nothing about the claim; others that they had merely heard of it. But the result was the same with all those present as it has invariably been in individual cases, namely, that when they heard the facts they were of opinion our investors had been unfairly treated and that they were entitled to an immediate settlement.

Judging by the views expressed by those I addressed there can be no doubt as to the opinion of the House, and any resolution in favor of recognising and settling our claim would have been accepted by the meeting and passed unanimously. I am sure the effect of my statements would have been the same if the whole 213 Members had been present.

Several Members said they would put a motion on the paper to bring the question before the House but it is now too late for a private Member's motion to be reached this Session.

The Government can however do so and I beg therefore to ask if you will put down a motion to appoint a Committee to deal with our claim.

We desire enquiry and if not granted it will indicate a fear that the result would show we were unjustly treated.

I shall esteem an early reply to this letter,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), A. D. PROVAND.

OTTAWA, APRIL 30th. 1901.
To the Honourable W. S. Fielding, M. P.
Minister of Finance,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

CHIGNECTO RAILWAY.

I beg to send herewith a copy of the Report of the meeting of Members of the House which I addressed in the Committee Room last Thursday evening. It is reprinted from the Ottawa Journal.

I also enclose copy of a letter addressed to-day to the Prime Minister and beg to confirm to you all I say therein, as to the disposition towards our investors which dominated the meeting.

I speak with the utmost confidence when I say that I am certain the Government will meet with no opposition whatever in the House to a proposal to come to terms with the Company in one of the different ways I have offered in the correspondence which has passed between us.