

They have been willing that the Dominion Government should retain the Branch and acquire the new road to the Strait of Canso, on any fair terms that would give assurance of the accomplishment of that purpose. We respectfully urge that the Dominion Government should either enter into such an agreement, or promptly transfer the Branch to the Local Government, free from any conditions or restrictions that would prevent the latter from making the enterprise a remunerative one to the Province.

Already the Province has suffered considerable loss through the delay in the arrangements for the transfer. The imposing of the conditions mentioned in the Order in Council would largely increase the first cost of the undertaking to the Province and, at the same time, so reduce the expected revenue as to not only destroy all hope of making the properties available in assisting Cape Breton extension, but also deprive the Province of moneys relied on to pay interest on the capital invested in the roads.

Thus, what has been regarded by all parties as a wise and profitable undertaking would, by the unfair restrictions, be made a burden, and the grants for the ordinary services—already, in some cases, too small—would have to be reduced to enable the Government to meet the obligations of the Province.

We respectfully beg that these representations may receive early attention from your Government, and we trust that, on a re-consideration of the whole question, they may see that the request of the Government of Nova Scotia is, in all respects, reasonable, and that compliance with it will fulfil both the express terms of the Act and the well understood design of all parties in the policy which the Act was framed to carry out.

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

WILLIAM T. PIPES.
W. S. FIELDING.

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