

CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 23rd March, 1883.

On a Memorandum dated 17th March, 1883, from the Minister of Railways and Canals, submitting that by an Act 45 Vic., cap. 14, passed last Session, authority was given for the grant of subsidies towards the construction of certain lines of railway to such Companies as might be approved by the Governor in Council as having satisfactorily established their ability to complete the said railways respectively within a reasonable time, and that amongst the proposed subsidies was the following:—"For a railway from St. Raymond to Lake St. John, both in the Province of Quebec, a subsidy not exceeding \$3,200 a mile, not exceeding in the whole \$384,000."

The Minister represents, that by a letter dated the 14th instant, the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company have submitted an application for the grant of the aforesaid subsidy, forwarding with such application a copy of a Bill amending and consolidating various previous Acts relating to their incorporation, privilege and powers, which Bill is now before the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, and has, they state, passed its third reading in both Houses, and has been adopted, and that by the second clause of the said Bill it is declared that the Act shall be held and taken to be a special Act incorporating the said Company.

The Minister further represents that the Company have already constructed a line of railway between Quebec and St. Raymond, a distance of about 35 miles, and by the third clause of the present Bill provision is made for power to construct a line from some point on their existing line, or from the city of Quebec to Lake St. John, the road to be completed as far as the southern extremity of the Island of Lake Edward by the 31st day of December, 1885, and as far as Lake St. John by the 31st December, 1887.

The Minister, being satisfied as to the ability of the Company, recommends that he be authorized, in the event of the aforesaid Bill becoming law, to enter into contract with the Company for the purposes contemplated by the Subsidizing Act above cited, and in conformity with its provisions.

The Committee advise that the requisite authority be granted accordingly, it being understood that the debt due to the Customs Department by the Quebec and St. John Railway be repaid out of the said subsidy.

Hon. Minister Railways and Canals.

JOHN MCGEE.

OTTAWA, 21st April, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the enclosed memorandum for the favorable consideration of the Honorable the Privy Council of Canada.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

M. W. BABY.

SIR CHAS. TUPPER, Minister Railways and Canals.

The Quebec and James Bay Railway.

Memorandum.

The Parliament of Canada in granting last Session the subsidy of three hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars, affirmed the expediency of securing the construction of this public work.

The grant was based, as will be seen by a reference to the statement made by the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals, in the House of Commons, on the resolutions granting subsidies to certain railways; on the two-fold consideration, that the line of railway proposed to be subsidized, exceeded the character of a local work, and that it was the commencement of an important federal work, a line of railway communication between Quebec and James Bay.

A Bill is now passing through Parliament to incorporate a company with the necessary powers to undertake this project in its entirety.

It is intended to merge the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company with the Quebec and James Bay Railway Company.