

by the Railway, and thus, besides gaining detailed information from the surveys made under his directions, had the additional advantage of a personal examination of the leading features of the country.

These were the circumstances under which the undersigned drew up the Memorandum of February last year.* The object of that Memorandum was to moderate the somewhat extravagant ideas of some parties interested at that time in the Railway project, and prevent the launching of a financial scheme, which in his opinion could not fail to result most disastrously. The writer had in view the initiation of a system of construction which, while comprehensive enough to embrace the whole project and secure the completion of the Railway throughout its entire length, at as early a day as practicable, would keep down financial burdens to the minimum, prevent the waste or misapplication of funds, and to the greatest possible extent promote the settlement of the country, and thus as speedily as possible render the line self-supporting.

Circumstances have again materially changed. The Policy sanctioned by Parliament, of building the Railway through the instrumentality of a Company has not succeeded. The Company chartered to carry out the undertaking no longer exists.

The Government itself has changed and is free to adopt and recommend to Parliament any course, which, in the interests of the Dominion, may seem most advisable.

In view of present circumstances, and with the light of all the information acquired from personal reconnois-

* Appendix B.