

An Act to make provision for the construction of a Trunk Railway through British North America.

WHEREAS the formation of Railroads from Halifax to the Rivers Detroit and Saint Croix, would consolidate and strengthen the Provinces of British America, develop their resources, multiply their social and commercial relations, and afford increased facilities for rapid inter-communication with the British Islands, and with all parts of this Continent :

And whereas Her Majesty's Government is prepared to advance the Funds required to construct a portion of these works, on certain conditions :

And whereas Canada has made liberal provision for one third of a trunk line from Halifax to Quebec, and for the extension of that line to the River Detroit :

And whereas there is reason to anticipate the co-operation of New Brunswick in the completion of both lines passing through that Province :

I. Whenever the Funds necessary for the purpose shall be raised by loan under the authority and guarantee of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, or advanced as a loan to this Province under such authority, or subscribed or loaned by individuals, as hereinafter provided, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to enter into such arrangements as may be deemed conducive to the interests of this Province, with the Government of the United Kingdom, and with the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick, in reference to the construction of a Railway from the Harbor of Halifax, in Nova-Scotia, to some point opposite the City of Quebec, either by constructing the same on the joint account of this Province and the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick in equal proportions, or by engaging to construct, at the expense of this Province, that part of the Railway lying within Nova-Scotia, or by making such other arrangements for the construction of the Railway as may be agreed upon with the Government of the United Kingdom and such Provincial Governments ; and for facilitating such arrangements, all the ungranted lands within this Province lying within ten miles on each side of the line of the Railway, are hereby placed at the disposal of the Governor in Council, to be appropriated, pledged, or otherwise dealt with, as may be thought best for the interests of the Province with regard to such arrangements, it being understood and hereby declared that the Legislature of this Province will confirm and carry out, by such enactments as may be necessary to give full effect to the same, any arrangement and agreement which may be made by the Governor in Council, in the spirit and for the purposes of this Act.

II. It shall be lawful for the Governor, out of the funds to be raised or advanced for the purpose, to pay such sums as may be required to defray the expenses of making that part of the Railway which shall be made at the expense of this Province under any such arrangement, or any other expenses which, under such arrangement, are to be borne by this Province.

III. Whenever the Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova-Scotia, have completed the arrangements necessary, and determined on the construction of the work contemplated by this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to appoint not more than five Commissioners, with full powers to construct such work, in conjunction with Commissioners to be appointed in the other Provinces, who shall be empowered, from time to time, to draw upon the Receiver General for any amount, not to exceed one-third of the funds required for the same.

IV. The main trunk line of Railway, or such part thereof as may be made under the provisions of the preceding sections of this Act, shall be a Public Provincial Work ; and the Railway shall be made through this Province on such line, and in such places, as the Governor in Council shall determine and appoint, as best adapted to promote the general interests.

V. The Commissioners are authorised to enter upon and take possession of any lands required for the track of the Railway or for stations, and they shall lay off the