

SHIPPEGAN, N.B., 4th March, 1883.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed to forward you a Petition, signed by the inhabitants of Shippegan, asking help of the Dominion Government towards the building of a branch of railway in the County of Gloucester.

Trusting you will give the same your favorable attention,

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,

JOSEPH TRUDELLE, P. P.

Hon. Sir CHAS. TUPPER, Minister Railways and Canals.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Marquis of Lorne, K.T., G.C.M.G., P.C., Governor General of Canada; and to the Honorable the Executive Council of the Dominion of Canada.

The Petition of the undersigned French Fishermen, inhabitants of the County of Gloucester, in the Province of New Brunswick,—RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH—:

That there are in the County of Gloucester 15,687 inhabitants of French origin, being nearly all descendants of the Acadians who fled from their homes at Miramichi in the year 1756;

That the said inhabitants of French origin derive their support from the products of the fisheries, which constitute their chief occupation, the land in the county being, generally speaking, too sandy to yield a good return;

That the chief fishing places in the County of Gloucester are Caraquet, Shippegan, La Grand Anse, Tracadie and Inkerman, the first named place being forty miles distant from the line of the Intercolonial Railway, the only means of accommodation being by a very bad road;

That the French population live along the coast, and that the Intercolonial Railway passes at so great a distance from it that it is of very little use to them; and that the waters of the Bay of Chaleurs and of the Gulf furnish an abundance of cod, herring, mackerel and other fish;

That one-third of the cod taken or prepared in New Brunswick, one-third of all the lobsters, and more than one-half of the mackerel, are taken and prepared in the County of Gloucester; and that the total value of the fisheries of the County of Gloucester for the year 1881 was \$518,728 38, being about one-third of the whole fishery trade of New Brunswick;

That if connection were established by railway between Shippegan and the Intercolonial (which can easily be done, inasmuch as the country is very level), the fishery trade of the county might be more than doubled for the quantity of fish in the waters off the coast of the County of Gloucester is in reality inexhaustible; moreover, the County of Gaspé, and the eastern part of the County of Bonaventure, would derive great benefit from the construction of this proposed railway, by forwarding their fishery and other products to the terminus of the said railway, the distance being only some twenty miles, whereas the nearest point on the Intercolonial, Campbellton, is not less than sixty miles distant from those localities;

That your petitioners are poor, and unable to furnish any money whatever for the construction of such a railway, which is so necessary in the interests of the Dominion and of the inhabitants residing south of the Bay of Chaleurs;

Wherefore they respectfully pray that Your Excellency and Council will take their case into favorable consideration, and grant such aid towards the construction of a railway from the Intercolonial near Bathurst, to Shippegan, as shall be deemed expedient and proper.

And will ever pray.

JOSEPH TRUDELLE, P.P., Shippegan,
AUGUSTE PAULIN, and 354 others.