

with the port of Louisburg, and have repeatedly expressed their willingness to encourage any *bona fide* enterprise of that character. Some time ago we had negotiations with other parties who proposed to undertake the work, and although no agreement was ever made, we were disposed to deal favorably with them. As they have not taken any action we are free to deal with any others who may be prepared to carry out the work. We can only make a contract with a duly organized company. I have no doubt that if you and your associates enter upon coal mining operations in the County of Cape Breton on the extensive scale which you propose, our Government will be found ready to grant a subsidy of three thousand two hundred dollars (\$3,200) per mile to such approved line as will connect the port of Louisburg with the coal fields.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. S. FIELDING,
Provincial Secretary.

HENRY M. WHITNEY, Esq.,
81 Milk Street, Boston.

On the 23rd of May Mr. Whitney acknowledged receipt of both letters. Mr. Whitney had in the meantime sent his solicitors and representatives to Halifax to confer with the Government.

AN AGREEMENT REACHED.

We came to an understanding which was formulated in an Order-in-Council. On the 26th of May, 1892, I addressed to Mr. Whitney the following letter :—

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, May 26th, 1892.

DEAR SIR :

Referring to previous correspondence in relation to your proposed coal mining operation in Nova Scotia, I have the honor to forward you herewith a certified copy of an Order of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, passed at Halifax on the 23rd day of May, instant, and approved by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, which states the terms and conditions under which the Government are prepared to grant leases of coal areas to you and your associates.

In transmitting this document I desire to call your attention to the importance of your proceeding with all reasonable dispatch to make whatever arrangements are necessary for the carrying out of your plans. While no time limit has been fixed in the Order-in-Council, it must be obvious that an order of this character could not be allowed to remain as a standing offer for an indefinite period. If within a reasonable time you do not avail yourself of the conditions set forth, it may be necessary to cancel the Order-in-Council.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. S. FIELDING,
Provincial Secretary.

HENRY M. WHITNEY, Esq.,
81 Milk Street, Boston.