

Grand Trunk Railway of Canada,
June 2nd, 1863.

(“By Telegraph from Montreal Station.”)
“Hon. J. S. Macdonald—

“The following is Mr. Byrdes’ reply to my telegram received this morning. He has not received mine of last night, being on his way from Detroit to Sarnia.

“His way do not in any way interfere in Montreal West election. We have been humbugged by promises too long, and the Government must understand that nothing short of an actual settlement upon such terms as would be satisfactory to us, will satisfy us after what has passed.

“If the Government are prepared to settle with us at \$150 per mile, with a contract for three years from now, and dating the settlement at the date of Sidney Smith’s report, I will be perfectly satisfied in the election in Montreal West, but I will not undertake to do more than be neutral.”

“If you settle as above on or before Friday, I will fulfil the promise I gave you last night.”

“J. FERRIER.”

So after all, nothing more than neutrality—the ending is, now in their letters that they always observed—was promised. The consequences to the Government to give them \$150 per mile. And this was all the Premier and the Attorney General East had to agree from them. Ho—Mr. Holt—Mr. Ferrier upon the street,

Next day he [Mr. Dorion] met eight or ten of his friends and the matter was pretty fully discussed. The proposition previously made by the Attorney General West was that the Grand Trunk could undertake the side services at the rate of \$150 per mile. There were mail clerks, and the question arose as to the amount they were willing to sanction for this largely augmented service. It must be understood that it was no agreement on his—Mr. Dorion’s—part or that of his friends; because they had no power to make such agreement. He only said that if the Government could come to such a settlement as to a rate within \$150 for the additional service, he and his friends would support them in making such a settlement. What the proper amount should be must depend, of course upon the decision of the Government, but it was not more than the sum of \$150, as he had stated. At the meeting which took place at the lodging of the Attorney General West, in Montreal, after the dissolution, no sum was mentioned as the amount proper to be paid, except casually, as they were separating Mr. Ferrier treated by Mr. Dorion and said, “If I am sorry the amount was not mentioned in the last mentioned last Session.” Mr. Dorion replied that he would have been very glad, had it been settled then, inasmuch as in that case it would not have to be settled now. That was the only time the sum of \$150 was brought in at all, and the mention of

were invited to join the Administration. He stated amongst other things that the Government was not prepared to take this question was to be taken. He said that he had been dealt with by the Government. Shortly afterwards he [Mr. Macdonald] was present at the nomination for Montreal Centre and the interruptions with which his hon. friend's Mr. Holton's remarks were received by the Grand Trunk employees showed that the Company were not without influence in the Government. After the speeches were over he, Mr. Macdonald, certainly felt indignant, because he had been given to understand that the Grand Trunk were to be neutral. He never asked the Grand Trunk to be on the side of the Government. If they stood aside and gave the Government fair play with the people, were not Mr. Young or Mr. Ferrier, hear, hear, after what he had said, the son of Mr. Ferrier to the Club. Mr. Ferrier denied any knowledge of interference on the part of the Grand Trunk employees, and said that if he, Mr. Macdonald, gave him the name of those who had interfered, he would care that they did not happen again. He, Mr. Macdonald, then had taken place at that interview except on one point. He had been told that Mr. John Young—who had lately returned from England, and knowing the feeling there on the subject,—though the Government should grant a liberal payment to the Grand Trunk if they did not fail, and he said that it was of importance to the Government to have such a man as Mr. Young in Parliament to assist them in going up to the conclusions they might arrive at on this subject, and to give him a reason why the Grand Trunk should not oppose Mr. Young as they were threatening to do. [Hear, Mr. Young.] He said that Mr. Young should be returned, and that Mr. Ferrier should do all he could to prevent Grand Trunk interference against him. Mr. Ferrier agreed with him. Mr. Macdonald, that Mr. Young's return would be of a great advantage. The Government were prepared to deal with the Grand Trunk as friends when they were in the Government, and he certainly did think that they were entitled to further play in return. The Grand Trunk has given their influence against them, but in spite of that, the Government had agreed to increase the postal payments from \$70 to \$100 per mile except the distance of the side service, which cost about \$100 per mile. [Hear, hear.] The railway mail clerks' salaries, amounting to about \$20,000 per annum additional, or, if their services had been included, raising the payments to something approaching to \$150 per mile per annum. [Hear, hear.] He might further state that on Friday last he, Mr. Macdonald, received a telegram containing the substance of what appeared in the Montreal Standard, to the effect that the Government were charged with corruption, and that on reading it to Mr. Ferrier at his, Mr. Macdonald's, office, that gentleman declared it to be unfair and untrue. [Hear, hear.] And not only that, so anxious was he, Mr. Macdonald, to refute the statement which had been made, that he took Mr. Ferrier into his room of his hon. colleague [Mr. Dorion] and said that the Government had ever offered to pay \$150 a mile. Mr. Ferrier replied that they had not and said he would see to the statement being promptly contradicted in the Gazette. [Hear, hear.] So far from that, however, the endeavor was made to fasten upon the Government a promise which they have never had. [Hear, hear.] He said that the Grand Trunk giving them its support at the elections. He, Mr. Macdonald, would say nothing of the way in which the question had been brought up at the present stage of their difficulties. That had been characterized in fitting terms by his hon. friends who had preceded him. All the world say was that the Government were not to be in the wrong of the evident intention to exercise power on the floor of the House as it had done before—were not alarmed at the consequences, they must be dead to the danger which threatened them. The question to be determined was, whether because the Government refused to pay the Grand Trunk large sums beyond what it was believed that the Government were entitled to it would be supported in raising the question of the special purpose of getting those back to the Treasury Benches by whom its extravagant demands would be met. If the hon. gentlemen opposite returned to power through the influence of the Grand Trunk, a corresponding reward would be given to the Grand Trunk in return. And not alone the Grand Trunk, but the other lines, and other Railways, such as the Grand Trunk and the Prescott and Ottawa, all of which had a deep interest in large payments being made for postal service. By the Railway interest, the Government were unaided day by day because they gave them more than they were entitled to. [Hear, hear.] The country ought to know that the Government were against the attempts which came from the Treasury, and that though private letters had been exhibited to them from the Grand Trunk, showing what hon. gentlemen opposite were prepared to give, they had resisted all such overtures. He repeated that he had always been ready to deal with the Grand Trunk in a fair and liberal manner, and one of the best evidence of that was that he had given to their Bill of last session, and that at that time he was not aware what was now claimed by the Grand Trunk advocate, that a portion of the Bill was so worded as to get rid of the liabilities of the Grand Trunk to the province. [Hear, hear.] He (Mr. Macdonald) was not concerned at anything which had been said or written for nothing. He said that the people of the Province were as much as he to be ashamed of. The attempt which had been witnessed showed this at all events that the people of the Province could not be too wary or guarded in protecting the exchequer from the inroads which were being made upon it from year to year. [Hear, hear.] He had now stated all he had previously considered it necessary to advance, and he thought that the Government had left untouched, he would be happy to enter into further explanations. [Hear, hear.]

Hon. Mr. Holton said the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Rose) had asked him a question across the House as to the legal opinion that hon. gentleman had given on the subject of the Grand Trunk arrangement of 1862. [Hear, hear.] Mr. Holton put it to the House they had not taken up the Bill out of the door had they understood, as now alleged, it contained a clause having the effect of foreclosing the claims of the Government against the Company?

Hon. Mr. Foley—What has that to do with the question?

Hon. Mr. Holton begged the hon. gentleman to have a question. He would find it to have a question. He would find the question. It proved that the gentleman who were conspiring with the Grand Trunk on this occasion to destroy the character of the Government, not only to attempt to defame them now, but defrauded the country a year ago. They had defrauded the Legislature into passing an Act which they were never intended to construct. The House never imagined it was a success. According to Mr. Brydges, the hon. member for Montreal Centre had given a legal opinion to the effect that certain portions of the Arrangement Act of 1862, deprived the gov-

A trial of Reaping Machines came on on Tuesday last, the 25th ult., on the farm of Mr. Duncan McQuann, Sen., Beckwith. There were three machines present and entered for competition, viz, 1, "Buckeye," manufactured by Cositt & Bro., Smith's Falls; 2, "Buckeye," manufactured by Frost & Wood, Smith's Falls; 3, "Cayuga Belle," manufactured by Pattersons, of Belleville. The field selected to try the merits of the machines was a fine heavy field of Spring Wheat, and as the work progressed great interest was manifested by those who had come to witness the contest, which continued throughout until the whole plot of two acres was finished. Owing to the work being so well done and so nearly equal, it was only from the most minute examination and observation as the work progressed that the judges were able to say really which done their part best. But taking time and the particular way that each machine laid the sheaves into consideration, they awarded the first prize to Messrs. Cositt & Bro., and the second to Frost & Wood. There were about 200 of the surrounding farmers present; the day was fine and the whole affair passed off in a highly satisfactory manner. Much praise is justly due to Mr. McDougall, on whose farm the mowing match came off, and to Mr. McQuann, on whose farm the Reaping Match took place, for their good arrangements and liberal hospitality.—COM.

Quebec Correspondence.
Quebec, 28th Aug, 1863.

MR. EDITOR—This is the sixteenth day of the session and yet the address in answer to the opening speech of His Excellency has not passed the House of Assembly. It may pass to-night but this is doubtful. All parties are heartily tired of the debate and yet the opposition persist in talking against time and protracting the debate from day to day, evidently for no other purpose than to obstruct the public business, and then to charge the government with being unable to proceed. Last night Mr. O'Leary closed his speech, which had occupied a considerable part of three sittings. He talked, or rather screamed, long and wearily, about his own doings during the past eight years—laboring hard to make it appear that everything good in the government of the country had originated with himself and friends, while all the debt which had been contracted and everything bad had been initiated by the party now in power. Several times, when he thought he had made out his case, some manly member on the other side of the House, by an appeal to the Journals, would dissipate the happy illusion, very much to the disgust of Mr. C. and his friends. Mr. Brown is expected to make a speech to-night in reply, which will brush the cobwebs from the eyes of those who are not willfully blind.

You have, of course, seen an account of the "disgraceful disclosures" on the subject of the postal subsidy to the Grand Trunk. I listened for six or seven hours to the statements and explanations on both sides, and the only conclusion I came to is this, that the Grand Trunk Company, taking advantage of the exigencies of the moment, on the eve of an election, tried to extort an additional \$50 a mile for the service. This, on a thousand miles, and for a period of eighteen years, the time proposed, would have cost a loss to the country of \$400,000. The Grand Trunk threatened, if the government did not comply with their exorbitant demand, to oppose the ministerial candidates in Montreal, where several hundreds of Grand Trunk workmen have votes. The government stood firm in resisting, and the result is well known—the defeat of Messrs. Dorion, Hulton and Young. The two first named gentlemen got seats elsewhere, and I think the country is under obligations to them for the part they have acted in the affair.

In addition to the invasion of the Province by 300,000 men, an account of which you have seen, a conspiracy has been discovered within the Province. Seward is to be invited to come and make us one of the States of the American Union; and the only indication of our existence, in future, will be an additional spee on the "star spangled banner."

The government, true to its pledges on making office, is persevering in its scheme of retrenchment, and a large saving to the treasury will be effected by the discharge of useless officers from the post offices, the Custom Houses and other public offices.

Twenty-six petitions against election returns have been presented to the House, but some of them will be dropped. A sufficient number, however, will remain to give great deal of trouble to the Election Committee. The General Committee of Elections has been appointed, and will proceed at once with the business.

Several Indian Chiefs, from the Island of Manitoulin, are here, just now, and it is expected that the difficulties with the Indians, at that place, will be arranged in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

Yours, E.

The Quebec *Mercury* referring to the late charges in the Montreal Gazette against members of the Administration says:

"We are warranted in saying that the accusation is without any foundation, and that the so called 'disgraceful disclosures' will be found to be disgraceful only to those who have been concerned in their publication. The whole thing is an invention—an unblushing lie, coined in part to gratify the malice of the Grand Trunk Company, whose importunate demands the present government have steadily resisted, and in part to serve the purposes of the opposition during the struggle now in progress in the House."

says: "The revolutions growing out of the bitter attack made by the *Justice* upon the Ministry, concerning the Grand Trunk, have resulted in the Government being obliged to provide of essential service to the country, inasmuch as the dispatch suppressed by Messrs. Brydges and Ferrier shows that the Grand Trunk Company considers it right to throw its influence into elections, and not only so, but all on one side. That the Government probably commands several hundred votes in Montreal, and doubtless a proportionate number at every station in the Province where it employs lands and procures supplies; and it virtually threatens the Government to employ all this power against it in elections, unless its terms be complied with,—in which case it will remain neutral, or, in other words, let its employees vote as they choose, but they being trained to vote on one side previously, the neutral party would, even were it graciously accorded, be very nominal at best real.

It is very natural that the sympathies of the Grand Trunk managers, whose propensities for sumptuous cars, special trains, pleasure-trips, champagne dinners, &c., and well known, should be with the party whose leaders are of the same description,—convivial, jolly fellows, who make the money fly, and who sink the Province almost as hopelessly into debt as the Grand Trunk Company itself. That such managers on both sides should manifest a strong affinity, is very natural; and we do not wonder that Mr. Brydges should say he could do nothing more against his friends than remain neutral, even for \$150 a mile but if it were not granted,—all the stand-and-deliver terms were not complied with by the Ministry,—then, in that case, there would be no thought or talk of neutrality: the natural affinity would have full swing.

Seriously, we ask, is this a right position for the Government of the country to be placed in? Should a chartered company operated by the Government have it in its power so to heard it? Should the choice of their public servants by the people be controlled in any degree by a company whose interests are diametrically opposed to those of the people? Suppose the majority of the people of Canada preferred an economical Administration, which did not suit the views of the Grand Trunk Company at all, and suppose that company, first by interference with the elections, and afterwards at a critical moment, by sending a special train with its Manager and a large supply of artfully got up documents for distribution among the members of the House,—suppose by these and other arts and influences, it could upset the ministry and bring back its friends to power, who would, doubtless, deny nothing to such a serviceable corporation, suppose all this, we say, and the question arises, whether is it the people of Canada or the Grand Trunk Company that rules the country? Or, in other words, whether are the ministry, so put in, the servants of the people or the company?—the company being virtually one or two men of great abilities, but the small scruples, who have added to themselves a few respectable and pliable cyphers for appearance sake.

Let us suppose that the Montreal Bank, the next most powerful corporation in the country, were to demand certain conditions from the ministry previous to a general election, and were to say, "If the Government remits the tax on circulation, not only for the future, but the past, the Bank will remain neutral in the elections? what would be thought of its conduct? An intemperate shout would go up all over the land, 'Abolish its charter and bring it to a close as soon as possible.'" But in what respect would the Bank in this hypothetical case be more to blame than is the Railway Company actually at present? We call the attention of the English shareholders to this position of their servants here.

A very severe storm of lightning and rain passed over Pakenham on Monday last, doing much damage to the farmers—leveling ground and fences in every direction. We are very sorry to hear that the barn of John A. Gernmilly, Esq., was struck by the electric fluid and burst to the ground with all its contents. A correspondent informs us that the barn was full of grain and hay—the whole of his crop having been housed except a small stack of pease which the barn could not hold.

The Montreal *Transcript* says:—"We have been informed on credible authority that a great number of bad quarters have lately been put in circulation in this city. They are said to be also so perfect that they will escape detection on examination. The other day we were told of one individual who received one of these spurious coins in a dollar and a half, as well as of another man who had received half a dollar from another mint." Look sharp at your quarters.

We direct the attention of our readers to the latest parliamentary reports in another column. The division on Mr. Sciotte's amendment to the address resulted in a majority of three to the ministry. The Reformers of South Lanark will observe that Mr. Morris, although an "independent" member, and not, at all, a party man, voted, as usual, with Cartier and John A. McDonald. At the same time, he would like to have his constituents understand that he is not being Reformers a "factious opposition"!!

The Fall Assizes, 1868:
 EASTERN CIRCUIT.
 Hon. Mr. Justice John Wilson.
 Brockville..... Tuesday, 20th Sept.
 Kingston..... Monday, 5th Oct.
 Cornwall..... Wednesday, 14th "
 "..... Tuesday, 20th "
 "..... Tuesday, 27th "
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