

doubt that the presence of the Governor-General, and the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Canada,—which is understood to be in favor of the undertaking in its military bearings,—added weight to the advocacy of the measure on the part of Canada.

We have reason to believe that an earnest impression of the necessity of national aid to a North American Inter-Colonial Railroad, on national considerations, was made on the minds of some of Her Majesty's Ministers; and that the question was adopted by the Cabinet as of serious import.

We are not without hope that these negotiations may contribute to the accomplishment of this great object, although the pressure on the Imperial Exchequer, owing to the Eastern War, has rendered the period unpropitious.

The absorbing interest of Indian affairs, and the engrossing engagements of the Government in relation to them, and to the closing of the session of Parliament, precluded our having many opportunities of urging the subject personally, and occasioned much loss of time in seeking these opportunities.

We transmit herewith a copy of our letter to Mr. Labouchere, and of his reply. We shall be happy if the manner in which we have dealt with the subject shall be considered appropriate.

We beg to correct a mistake in the closing paragraph of our letter to the Colonial Secretary, in which we say, that Canada and Nova Scotia acted without mutual concert. We were aware that before we left Halifax, the Provincial Government had invited the attention of Canada and New Brunswick to the subject; but we were not acquainted with, or we had overlooked, the fact, that the Canadian Government, in appointing Delegates to England, had acted upon that movement on the part of Nova Scotia.

Although it may not be our province to offer an opinion on the subsequent measures proper for following up with effect any favorable impressions made by the recent negotiations, yet it belongs to our duty to report, that we were met by the objection, that the absence of Delegates from New Brunswick,—or rather the want of some concerted scheme for the Inter-Colonial Railroad, agreed upon by the three Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia,—rendered the consideration of the subject premature; and that no practical result was probable until those Colonies should be agreed among themselves.

We are assured that the concert and harmonious action of the three Colonies, however this may be best attained, is the step that next presents itself in the prosecution of this important measure.

From what fell under our observation, we are further induced to express our belief that valuable assistance, through the influence of persons in England interested in the North American Colonies, would be secured toward the attainment of the object, were the reasons in its favor made public in the form of a pamphlet illustrated by a map.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servants,

(Signed)

J. W. JOHNSTON,

(Signed)

ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD.

To the Hon. Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax, Nov. 23rd, 1857.*

SIR,—

By command of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, I have the honor again to invite the attention of the Government of Canada to the important