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Extract from a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council on matters of State, dated 24th April, 1851, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council the same day.

"On the Despatch of Earl Grey to your Excellency, dæd 14th March ulto., No. 569, stating that Her Majesty's Government are prepared, on certain conditions, to recommend to Parliament that Imperial credit should be employed to enable the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to raise upon advantageous terms the funds necessary for the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, the Committee of Council are respectfully of opinion, that the suggestion of Earl Grey, that a deputation from the Executive Councils of the two Lower Provinces should proceed to the Seat of Government in Canada, in order to confer with your Lordship and with your Council, for the purposes of coming to some agreement in this matter, which, after being approved by the Legislatures of the several Provinces, might be submitted for the sanction of Parliament, should be adopted.

"The great work, in the construction of which the Imperial Government is disposed to lend its powerful aid, has already been sanctioned to a certain extent by the Canadian Parliament.

"Any new proposition from the Imperial Government is entitled to the fullest and most respectful consideration, and the Committee of Council entertain no doubt that the respective Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be prepared, on the invitation of your Excellency, to send deputations to consult with your Excellency in this City without unnecessary delay.

Certified.

(Signed)

J. JOSEPH, C. E. C."

(Copy)

Government House, Halifax, May 17th, 1851.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose copies of a Despatch and Minute of Council which were received from his Excellency the Governor General yesterday.

I shall be prepared to dispatch a Member of my Council to represent this Province at the Conference proposed, whenever I shall be apprised by your Excellency of the concurrence of your Government, and of the time which may be most convenient.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. HARVEY.

His Excellency Sir E. W. Head, Bt.

(Copy)

Government House, Fredericton, N. B., May 20, 1851.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of the 17th inst.

At a meeting of my Executive Council, held yesterday it was resolved that a Member of that body should be deputed to proceed to Toronto, and it was thought that some day between the 10th and 15th June would be a convenient time for his arrival there.

On receiving a reply from your Excellency, stating that this time would meet the convenience of the Delegate from Nova Scotia, I will immediately communicate with Lord Elgin on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDMUND HEAD.

His Excellency Sir J. Harvey, K. C. B., K. C. H.

(Copy)

Government House, Halifax, 24th May, 1851.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's Despatch of the 20th inst., and beg to enclose copies of Minutes of Council passed here on the 9th May.

Mr. Howe has been instructed to meet Mr. Chandler at Dorchester on the 1st June.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. HARVEY.

His Excellency Sir E. W. Head, Bt.

(Copy)

"At a Council held at the Government House, at Halifax, on the 19th day of May, 1851,

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,

The Hon. Jas. B. Uniacke,

" Michael Tobin,

" Joseph Howe,

The Hon. Hugh Bell,

" Jas. M'Nab,

" Samuel Creelman.

"His Excellency calls the attention of the Council to Despatch from the Rt. Hon. the Governor General, dated Toronto, 1st May, 1851, enclosing an Extract from a Report made by a Committee of Council on the 24th April, in relation to the proposed railway between Halifax and Quebec.

"Whereupon the Lieutenant Governor is advised to depute the Hon. Joseph Howe to proceed to Canada, to confer with the Governor General on matters of State, and with full powers to accept, on the part of Nova Scotia, the terms proposed by the Imperial Government for the construction of Inter-Colonial Railways."