

the Counties of the Province, and do not include many other Railways, such as the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial roads, the Shefford and Chambly, South Eastern Counties, Sorel and Chambly, and others which are not included amongst them, towards the construction of which the Legislature has pledged assistance. (Hear, hear.)

It will thus be seen how large a proportion of the Province will derive direct advantages from the Railways subsidized by the Legislature, both by the expenditure of large sums of money during their construction, and especially by the establishment of various industries which uniformly follow the introduction of Railways into any country.

I now come, Mr. Speaker, to the distribution of the subsidies proposed to the various Railways, instead of the land grants, and the proposed increase to be made to cash subsidies. It is to be observed that the Government, in no case, wishes to disturb the existing arrangements, as to land grants, unless the Companies, in whose favour these were made, see fit to relinquish them, and prefer to accept the provision proposed to be made in their favour. It has been represented, by several Companies, that money cannot be raised upon the security of the lands granted and on security of the roads proposed, sufficient to build the Railways, and provide sufficient rolling stock. The importance of having our Railway system perfected as far as possible, and the necessity of something being done to ensure the construction of Railways pressed itself so much on the Government as to induce them to endeavour to grant such assistance from the public purse, and to show their confidence in the various projects submitted, as would induce capitalists to invest money in Railway enterprises, believing that such investments would be safe, and at the same time largely benefit the Province. (Applause.)

To assist hon. members in understanding what is proposed, I divide the Railways mentioned as having aid promised, into three classes, A, B and C.

In class A I place the North Shore Railway including the Piles branch and the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway, both extending from Quebec to Aylmer.