

guaranteed from any great loss, until the lapse of time shall have rendered the property a remunerating one : and it has been proposed to effect this through prospective grants to be in force for a certain number of years, by the local Legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and United Canada, each Province to contribute to the whole sum granted in the proportion of its Revenue. A hope is also indulged, that as the Mother Country would reap from the work all the advantages of direct communication with Quebec, contemplated by the long talked of Military road, through New Brunswick which would then be no longer necessary, the British Government, provided the plan assume a practicable shape, and be proceeded with under proper auspices, may be induced to contribute, towards the completion of the former, some portion of the money which would have been expended on the latter route, had it been constructed.

So deeply imbued am I, with the conviction, both that the proposed Railway will cost more than is generally supposed, and that the proceeds at the commencement, will bear a small proportion to the outlay which will have been incurred, that without I entertained the hope of a combined and spirited action on the part of the several Provincial Legislatures, I should look on the scheme as idle and visionary in the highest degree, if regarded as an investment likely to produce immediately profitable returns. As, however, I cannot but feel persuaded that the local Legislatures will be sufficiently alive to the great benefits which would accrue from the accomplishment of this grand design to be willing to endeavor to place it on such a footing that European Capitalists may be enabled to co-operate with safety in its promotion, I am desirous of affording to the Parliament of Nova Scotia, at its next meeting, all the information likely to forward such an attempt, and I would therefore request your Lordship to be good enough to interest yourself to procure from the Ordnance Department, copies of any surveys which have been made in the Province of New Brunswick or Canada, with a view to the formation of the Military road above alluded to, or any other topographical data which may exist, likely to facilitate the object I have in view.

The step, however, which appear to me to be of primary importance, and to demand immediate attention, is the conducting of an accurate survey for ascertaining the practicability of the plan, and for the selection of the best route. The importance of the ultimate object is so great both to the Mother Country and the Colonies, that I trust your Lordship will deem this preparatory measure to be worthy of Imperial assistance, and I am therefore induced to ask you whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to send out competent military or civil engineers to conduct such survey, either at the expense of the British or Colonial Government, as your Lordship may deem proper.

Such a measure would engage confidence, both in England and in the Colonies, and preclude the risk which would attend unsound or inadequate information on this essential part of the undertaking.

As it is my intention to communicate with the Governor General and Sir William Colebrooke on this topic, I should wish to know if any reasonable hope might be entertained, that should the three Colonies unite in pledging a portion of their Revenues for the interest and gradual repayment of the principal money advanced, any assistance would be afforded them on the same terms as those on which aid was extended to Canada in the case of the Rideau, Beauharnois, and Welland Canals, or more direct succour from the Imperial Treasury upon the like security.

I have already intimated my opinion that if a Company were to be incorporated under the name of the "Halifax and Quebec Railway" or any other similar denomination, it were better that it should be done by an act of the Imperial Parliament, but as it may be deemed expedient to introduce an Act for the incorporation of some such body here in the approaching session, I should be much obliged by your Lordship's instructing me as to the nature of the guarantees and provisions which it may be right to insert for the protection of the Stockholders and the Public.

The immense political advantages that would attend the satisfactory completion
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