

Since writing the above, the contract to build by the Central route has been awarded. We had hoped that the Government would have delayed proceedings and given the people of Cape Breton an opportunity to pronounce upon the question of Routes at the Polls. It has seen fit to refuse this, the last request of the Delegation. Why?

Two influences both proceeding from Nova Scotia prevailed against us. The Minister of Justice being a native of Halifax, and living there, could not divest himself of its hereditary jealousy of Louisburg, and its opposition to everything calculated to give its eastern situation any prominence or advantage. He has succeeded, even at the expense of the Agricultural interests of the County which he represents, in pushing forward a route which, as far as Louisburg and its national and local importance is concerned, has no advantages whatever. Canada cannot use a mile of it for the purpose of direct communication with that important sea-port.

The Minister of Finance, hailing from the centre of the Nova Scotia Coal-mining area, was interested in the selection of a route which would put winter competition from Cape Breton Coal in the Canadian markets out of the question. He therefore clung to the impracticable Ferry, and the 15 miles of extra road, thus compelling Montreal to pay his district, 30 cents per ton extra, for coal.

The engineers were swayed either directly or indirectly by the very same motives, and their advice to build the longer route will afford the Nova Scotia Ministers no shelter. Neither will the self-interest of the Cape Breton County Members, who were entirely on this question out of tune with their Constituents. Nor will the impatience of the Members for Inverness and Victoria be of any avail as a road to Whycogomagh would have fully better satisfied their Counties.

The question with Cape Breton, therefore, is not one of party but one of escape from the opposing influences in the Cabinet. The best escape I can now think of is secession from Nova Scotia and union with Prince Edward Island. This is a measure which upon the presentation of the long list of Cape Breton's grievances cannot fail to be granted.

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