

REDUCTION OF TAXATION,

so that it will bear equitably on the working classes, can be best accomplished by placing on the free list such items as tea, sugar, pork, and the other prime necessities of our people on which very heavy taxes are now imposed. That this can be easily accomplished without in any way affecting the necessary revenue required to maintain the various public services of the Colony is shown by the fact that nearly \$100,000 has been collected annually for the past eight years over and above what was required to meet the demands of the public services.

BRANCH RAILWAY EXTENSION

by the construction of branch lines to points in Trinity Bay, in the District of Bay-de-Verde from Carbonear towards Grate's Cove, Bonavista Bay, Fortune Bay and Bonne Bay, as well as to Trepassey, is a work which will immediately engage our attention. During the eight years in which I was a member of the Whiteway Government—from 1889 to 1897—nearly six hundred miles of railway were built—a trunk line across the country. When this enterprise was set on foot we were told that the road would never earn enough to pay for axle-grease, but to-day all will agree that it has more than justified the expectations of its advocates, and contributed materially to the prosperity of the Colony, as well as to the betterment of the people. It is, how-

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ever, incomplete, in that it lacks branches to the different sections of the Island above stated, and it shall be our privilege to construct these branches without delay. The people of these portions of the Island are contributing their share towards maintaining the burden which Railway Building entailed, and it is but just that as soon as it can be shown that such extension can be carried out without entailing additional taxation on the people of the Colony, the work should be set on foot. That **THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE BRANCH LINES IS FEASIBLE, (ACCORDING TO SIR ROBERT BOND), WITHOUT ADDING TO THE PRESENT BURDENS OF OUR PEOPLE,** is proved by the following declaration of the Right Honorable the Premier of the Colony, made at the House of Assembly during the last session of the Legislature, on February 13th, 1908. Speaking to a petition presented from Bonavista praying for Railway Extension there the Premier said:—

“No Legislation is necessary
“at present in order to effect
“the accomplishment of the
“branch railways, as it is pro-
“vided in the Railway Con-
“tract that whenever it is
“shown to the Government
“that there is a sufficient
“volume of traffic to warrant
“the construction of a rail-
“way, the Government may
“call on the Government Con-
“tractor to undertake the work
“of construction at once. But
“the fact that there is a suffic-