

chargeable. As early as the year 1848, at the instance of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, and at the expense of the three Colonies, the survey of Colonel Robinson was made, and his report, full of the most useful information, exists to shew the necessity—the difficulties—and the practicability of the undertaking. Since that time, repeated and strenuous efforts have been made by those Colonies towards promoting the object. Now, without mutual concert, and each acting on its own apprehension of the importance of the measure, the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia have severally commissioned Delegates to press the subject on the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

J. W. JOHNSTON.

A. G. ARCHIBALD.

The Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE,

H. M. P. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Downing Street, 27th August, 1857.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, relative to the grant of Imperial aid towards the construction of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec; and I am to acquaint you, that this important subject will receive the careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

J. ELLIOTT.

The Hon. J. W. Johnston, and

A. G. Archibald, Esquire.

*Halifax, 6th November, 1857.*

SIR,—

In obedience to the instructions of His Excellency and the Provincial Government, we lost not the opportunity, while in London—pursuing the more important object of our mission—to urge the importance of an Inter-Colonial Railroad, in every quarter where the consideration of the subject promised to be useful.

His Excellency Sir Edmund Head being in London, we esteemed it to be our duty to him, as Governor General of these Colonies, to ascertain his sentiments on the question. He favored us with an interview, in which the measure was discussed, and from which we gathered in general terms, the favorable disposition of the Canadian Government to the undertaking.

Mr. Labouchere spoke with us freely on the subject, and obviously appreciated its importance; although it did not at first appear that he had arrived at its practical consideration. We left him with the understanding that we would submit our views to him in writing.

The arrival of Mr. MacDonald, the Attorney General of Canada West, and Mr. Rose, as Delegates from Canada, gave an impulse to the movement, and a position to the question, which Delegates from a single and small Province could not have hoped to effect.

These Gentlemen, with great earnestness and ability, enforced upon the Government the importance of the measure, from the Canadian point of view. We do not doubt