

MEMORIALS RELATING TO THE

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Memorial of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures,

Showeth,

THAT for six months of the year we are dependent on the United States of America for our communications with Canada.

That in case of an interruption of our friendly relations with the United States, our intercommunication with Canada, during that period, is liable to be cut off at a moment's notice, and an important portion of the British Empire placed in great jeopardy.

That the completion of the line of Railway from Halifax to Quebec would render us perfectly independent of the United States at all seasons of the year. But that owing to its non-completion, our trade and correspondence with our own Province of Canada, and the trade and correspondence between Canada and all the lower British Provinces and foreign countries is for half the year subject to the will and fiscal enactments of the United States.

That by completing the construction of this Railway, a distance of about 350 miles, direct railway communication will be established through British territory from Halifax to Lake Huron, a distance of 1,400 miles, accessible at all seasons, and which would render prohibitory or discriminating duties on the part of the United States impracticable.

That the completion of this line of Railway would accelerate the delivery of the Canadian Mails and Despatches at least 36 hours in advance of the present route through the United States.

That the completion of this line of Railway would open up for colonisation and settlement by emigrants from the mother country upwards of 14,000,000 acres of ungranted lands within a journey of 10 days from our own shores.

That the present cost of conveying the British North American mails through the United States, will be saved to the Imperial Treasury.

That by completing this line of Railway, and making Halifax the terminus of the British North American mails, we believe the Ocean service would at once become self-sustaining.

That the military expenses for the preservation of British North America, borne by the Imperial Treasury, amount to the sum of 420,000 *l.* per annum in time of profound peace.

That the completion of this line of Railway would effect a great saving of this expenditure on the one hand, and render Canada easy of defence on the other, as she would be accessible within 10 days at all seasons, whilst at the present time she is, in a military point of view, excluded from communication with the mother country for six months of the year.

That it would link together the three Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and give them access to the ocean at all seasons through the Port of Halifax, one of the finest harbours in the world, and nearer to England (and to Europe) by 400 miles than any other open port in America.

That your memorialists believe that the immediate completion of the line of Railway from Halifax to Quebec is essential to the preservation and integrity of the British Empire in North America.

That your memorialists believe, that in addition to its adding to the security and permanence of the British Empire in North America, accelerating the communication with the mother country, reviving that identity of interest with her which has been too long engrossed by the United States, the Railway would also effect a saving to the Imperial Treasury far exceeding any assistance that may be required for its completion.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to grant such aid and assistance, in conjunction with the Provincial Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, as will bring to a successful completion this great national undertaking.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

(signed) *John Jobson Smith*, President.