

QUEBEC, 7th December, 1860.

Gentlemen,

In the execution of the Commission with which you have been entrusted to examine into the position of the Grand Trunk Railway, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has been pleased to direct that the following instructions be issued for your guidance.

The object of the Government is to obtain information upon the real position and future prospects of the Grand Trunk Railway Company; and for this purpose you will enquire into and ascertain the exact financial position of the undertaking, its liabilities and its assets.

You will also direct your attention to the manner in which the actual working of the Railway is managed in all its branches, the arrangements under which the traffic is obtained by agreements with other Companies and otherwise, the tariff of charges and the extent of accommodation afforded to the public, including the postal service and the indemnity paid therefor.

You will further report upon the deficiencies stated to exist in the supply of rolling stock and station accommodation, with the means and cost of supplying the same.

You will also consider the questions of general commercial policy connected with the working of the Railway as an important channel of trade and report thereon.

The most important point connected with your enquiry is whether the Railway is now or can be made self sustaining and remunerative commercially, either by a decrease of the cost of working or by an increase of traffic or by both combined. And while you will be careful to submit all the evidence upon which your opinions may be based, His Excellency desires that you should report your views fully upon this point.

It is not considered necessary that the Commission should occupy itself with particular investigations into the past history or transactions of the Company which, whatever may be their nature, do not fall within the objects desired by the Government in the present enquiry.

Your present investigation will, however, naturally in some cases require reference to the past management and policy of the Company, and so far these subjects will properly fall within the scope of your duties.