

Imperial Government the anxiety with which such action, on the part of Great Britain, is looked forward to as a means of promoting the interests of Canada and of consummating a policy equally advantageous to imperial interests, and of which the Intercolonial Railway is but a part.

Since their arrival in England the undersigned have had the assurance from the most wealthy and influential men that upon a Governmental guarantee of interest at the rate of four per cent. a sum of five hundred thousand pounds would be immediately raised for the purpose of constructing at once a telegraph line, and a common highway for carrying the mails and the traffic between Canada and the Pacific.

The connection of the two oceans by telegraphic communications, and the facilities for passage and a frequent and easy intercourse through this immense British territory between Canada and British Columbia, is a matter not merely colonial, and the inhabitants of British America have a right to expect that in their efforts to unite more closely the interests and the tendencies of all the British American Colonies, by comprehensive internal improvements, leading towards more frequent intercourse with the mother country, they will be assisted by the strong co-operation of the Imperial Government.

The practicability and feasibility of such communication has been lately fully proved by the successful attempt made by a party of one hundred and fifty Canadians to cross this vast territory, guided only by their own but imperfect knowledge of the country.

The undersigned take the responsibility of stating to Your Grace that they are convinced that their Government would be disposed to contribute one-third of this guarantee of interest if the Imperial Government as well as for itself as for British Columbia would guarantee the other two-thirds of this sum of interest.

In any arrangements to be made with any company, conditions must be stipulated to secure the public against monopoly or excessive charges, and to guarantee an efficient working of the telegraphic line and of the road accommodations at all seasons and a proper postal service. Some provisions ought to be made to devote a certain amount of the profits to a sinking fund for the gradual extinction of the Governmental assistance.

The undersigned are gratified to know that this project of settlement and work of civilisation is a matter of deep interest to Your Grace and to Her Majesty's Government.

The undersigned will be glad to learn that Your Grace is prepared to recommend this or any similar line of action to your colleagues and to Parliament, and if so they will leave England in the belief that the first thoroughly practical step has been taken towards the initiation of a great enterprise, the success of which can but add to the wealth and to the power of the Empire.

London, 11th December, 1862.

(Signed,)

L. V. SICOTTE,
W. P. HOWLAND.

To His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MEMORANDUM of Messrs. Sicotte & Howland, addressed to Messrs. Glyn, Benson & Co., on the subject of the establishment of a common highway and telegraph line between Canada and the Pacific.

With a view of better enabling the gentlemen whom they met yesterday at 67 Lombard Street, to take immediately measures to form a company for the object of carrying out the construction of a telegraph line, and of a road to establish frequent and easy communication between Canada and the Pacific and to facilitate the carrying of mails, passengers and traffic, the undersigned have the honor to state that they are of opinion that the Canadian Government will agree to give a guarantee of interest at the rate of four per cent. upon one-third of the sum expended, provided the whole sum does not exceed five hundred thousand pounds, and provided also that the same guarantee of interest will be secured upon the other two-thirds of the expenditure by Imperial or Columbia contributions.

If a company composed of men of standing and wealth, such as those they had the pleasure to meet, is formed for the above purposes under such conditions as will secure the interests of all parties interested, and the accomplishment of the objects they have in view,