

it conferred on the whole. On the other hand, the Imperial Government have undoubtedly high objects to attain by an undertaking of this character, as it would serve as a bond of union between all the possessions on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts as well as the intervening territory, and tend in no small degree to perpetuate the continuity of the British Empire on this continent. Moreover, fully one-half of the whole extent of country to be traversed is still beyond the control of any of the Provincial Governments, and therefore any measure affecting that portion can only be dealt with by the Imperial authorities.

The Imperial Government, in a despatch dated 12th April, 1862, from the Colonial Secretary, have expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Provinces in "a desire to complete a perfect Inter-Colonial communication over British Territory," and in reference more particularly to that section lying between Quebec and Halifax, they have indicated the manner in which Imperial aid might be obtained, and announced that it would afford sincere gratification if the Provincial Governments would propose some practicable scheme for applying the Imperial offer to the attainment of the desired object.

The proposed communication between Halifax and Quebec, although a most important work, is only a link in a great chain, and it cannot be doubted that the policy of the Im-