

CANADA.

Directors, the Interoceanic Company naming a similar number, the intention being that the remainder of the Board, constituting a majority of it, should be agreed upon between the two Companies and the Government.

"Under these circumstances, the undersigned would observe that the carrying out of any such plan as that implied by or imputed to the Canada Company is simply impossible. Supposing, for argument's sake, that they entertained the intention of placing the control of the enterprise in the hands of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, the persons named by them on the Board would constitute but a small minority of it. And without the concurrence of the Interoceanic Company's nominees and those approved of by the Government, it would be utterly impossible not only to alienate the aid given by the Government, but even to obstruct in any material degree the operations of the majority of the Board. And if, which is impossible, the small minority could control the majority so far as either to purport to alienate the aid or obstruct the work, the remedy would be in the hands of the Government, as no portion of the proposed assistance could actually be alienated from the purposes for which it was intended, and the attempt would only result in the forfeiture of the agreement.

"With regard to the assertion of the Interoceanic Company that they 'very generally' and 'equally' represent all the Provinces of the Dominion, and the comparison of importance they draw between the Interoceanic Company's organization and that of the Canada Company, the undersigned would prefer not to discuss it at any length. At the same time, in justice to themselves, they would remark that they have not a word to say against the respectability of the three gentlemen from the Province of Quebec, whose names appear upon the minute of the meeting of the twenty-sixth day of September; but they would ask in what sense or from what point of view can these three gentlemen be said to represent that great and flourishing Province? And as to the other gentlemen from the Province of Quebec, whose names appear in the Bill of the Interoceanic Company, but who did not take part in that meeting, the well-known circumstances of their reception into that Company prevent the expectation that they will exercise any influence in its favour. A list of the Provisional Directors of the Canada Company is submitted herewith to the Government, and the company challenge a comparison of them with the Provisional Directors of the Interoceanic Company. And they do not hesitate to assert that the public of Canada will feel at least as much confidence in the Board constituted of those gentlemen as in the board of the Interoceanic Company. They regret the necessity for saying even so much as this on the subject, as they earnestly deprecate any approach to recrimination or anything that could by any possibility arouse any feeling on the part of the members of the Interoceanic Company; for it is their desire, in answering their statement, rather to endeavour to remove any wrong impression which that Company may have entertained, than to enter into controversy with them, and they have studiously avoided remarking upon many matters contained in the statement of the Interoceanic Company, though they have been in many instances strongly tempted to do so, in order that by avoiding all recrimination and controversial comment upon the line of argument contained in the statement they might manifest their earnest desire to carry out the wish of the Government for amalgamation; not only because such is the desire of the Government, but also because they feel that it is in the interest of the enterprise that all possible strength should be concentrated upon it.

"The undersigned are desirous of making one remark more as to the observations of the Interoceanic Company's statement with regard to politics. The Canada Company have not in any manner or way interfered in politics, and they are at a loss to know to what circumstances the Interoceanic Company can refer in their remark on this subject.

"The Canada Company is composed of persons holding different views in political matters, and those persons have acted in accordance with those views when called upon in any way to act politically since they joined the Company as they did before, and as they probably will continue to do; and the Canada Company have not in any way resorted to sectional or any other pressure to induce the Government to negotiate with them for the construction of the railway. On this point also it will be perceived that the Canada Company confined themselves to vindicating their own position, without assailing or attempting to assail the position or acts of the Interoceanic Company.

"In conclusion, the undersigned respectfully state that the members of the Canada Company claim for themselves in every respect a strong sentiment of patriotism, and as much public spirit as any of their fellow-subjects, and they consider that their names and antecedents are a sufficient guarantee that their claim is well founded. They are as sensible of the disadvantages of any obstruction to the gigantic undertaking in which the Government of Canada is about to embark, as any other person or Company can be. They believe themselves to be as competent as the Interoceanic Company or any other