

pect weakens the force or the truth of this opinion, one which I believe to be sound and therefore do I record my satisfaction at the encouragement to Agriculture which has been so steadily given by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, and which, I am persuaded, will not be relaxed. Well knowing the great importance, with reference as well to the interests of the Province as to the comfort and well being of the hardy and meritorious class of men engaged in the prosecution of that branch of its industrial pursuits, I rejoice in being enabled to offer you my cordial congratulations upon the prosperous result of the Coast and Bay Fisheries of Nova Scotia during the last season.

The period at, and the circumstances under, which we meet, afford me the opportunity of recommending to your continued attention an undertaking second in its importance to none which has ever engaged the notice of any Colonial Legislature in any portion of the British Dominions. I allude to the projected Railroad between Halifax and Quebec, which will constitute the most important link in that great line of communication which may be destined at no remote period to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean, and to conduct to a British Sea-port, from those into which it is now forced, that vast stream of Trade, not of our own Western Possessions alone, but of the rich and extensive Wheat and Grain-growing Districts of all *Central America*.

This view of the incalculable advantages which the completion of this great work would confer on all the British North American Colonies, and perhaps more especially upon this, its natural Atlantic terminus,—this consideration alone should call forth our gratitude for the promptitude with which our appeal to the Home Government was met, on this all important topic.

With respect to the Survey which, in compliance with your request in the last Session, has been commenced, by order of Her Majesty, for ascertaining the best line through which to carry the projected Railroad, although it may have unavoidably experienced some temporary interruption, from the unfortunate loss of one of the distinguished Officers to whose superintendence it was confided, I am nevertheless enabled to inform you that it is proceeding energetically, and that the operations will be renewed as soon as the season may permit.

In reference to this subject extracts of several Despatches from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State will be laid before you, as well as the copy of one from the Right Honorable the Earl of Cathcart, respecting the prolongation to this place of a line of Electro Telegraphic communication, now understood to be in actual operation in Canada, from Toronto westward,—and, although this is a project which would appear to connect itself with individual enterprise, in which I am convinced that the mercantile community of this City will evince no reluctance to engage, I should nevertheless be happy to receive and to communicate to the Governor General, any expression of your views upon the subject.

Circumstances having occurred to bring under my notice the sad state of destitution to which some of the aboriginal inhabitants of this Province have been reduced by the failure of the crops, on which mainly depends their winter's supply of food, and without in the slightest degree imputing any want of due consideration for those poor people in past years, for whom, on the contrary, I know that no appeal to the Local Legislature has ever been made in vain, I nevertheless deem this a fitting occasion upon which to seek to interest your sympathies in respect to the actual condition to which these former possessors of the soil have been reduced, by the advance of that civilization, in the benefits of which, until they can be educated, which can only be in succeeding generations, they must be incapable of fully participating, but by which, in the meantime, they find themselves deprived of the resources formerly afforded to them by those primeval forests, over which they once ranged the free and sole possessors.

I therefore submit to you whether it would not consist with the feelings of humanity and christian charity, if not of justice and of sound policy, to place a moderate