

asked besides for a line to Whytegomagh as the Dominion instalment of a Provincial line to Margaree. We asked for the immediate construction of about 110 miles of railway.

Did we ask for too much? The Government by adopting the central route gives 95, also a ferry. Now these 95 miles of the central route with the ferry will cost fully as much as the 110 miles we asked for, if not there is money and public spirit enough in Cape Breton and Richmond Counties to recoup the Government for the difference.

Does Cape Breton ask for too much? In proportion to her populations she pays more into the Dominion Treasury than any other portion of Canada. She also pays far more into the Treasury of Nova Scotia. In return she has but one public work, the St. Peters Canal. Does she ask for too much? Prince Edward Island half her size has 210 miles of Railway operated at a yearly loss to the Dominion of \$50,000. British Columbia with half the population has had the energies of Canada taxed since Confederation for the purpose of giving it Railway accommodations. The counties of Pictou and Antigonish with far less of a population and far less interests at stake have ten or twenty miles more Railway than all Cape Breton is asking for.

It will be noticed that we have been striving to obtain for North Sydney something better than the central route offers it. We put it within unbroken communication with the Strait of Canseau, we put its public Railway communications within 16 miles of Louisburg, and when these 16 miles are built it can send its coal there in winter for shipment at the rate of 12 cents a ton, i.e. if present rate of charges (3 mills per mile) be adhered to. It will thus have an immense advantage over those Companies which have sunk immense sums in Railway construction. It has been falsely reported in the *North Sydney Herald* that the Government was to buy and operate the private Railways already built between Sydney and Louisburg. The Minister of Railways told us that such an idea never entered into the mind of the Cabinet, he never heard of it there before we mentioned it. The wish or rather the lie in the *North Sydney Herald* must be father to the thought. It would fain have a road to Louisburg. Well we have done our best to get one for it. North Sydney must surely see that it is to its advantage to adopt a route which will give it the benefit of an Atlantic seaport open all the year round, as well as of easy, expeditious, uninterrupted communications with Canada.