

(No. 16.)

AUGUSTA, MAINE, Feb. 22d, 1864.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that our Railway Bill has become a law, authorizing the European and North American Railway Company of Maine to lease or purchase the lines of railway from Portland to Halifax, a copy of which I send herewith.

I am further authorized to say, that having arranged with the lines of railway west of Bangor, and secured the pledge of capital for this purpose, the European and North American Railway Company of Maine is now prepared to enter into contract for constructing the links in the chain that now remain unfinished, from Bangor to Halifax, in case the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall severally execute to it a lease of their lines as built, and by proper facility bills pledge the sum of £20,000 currency in each Province, or eighty thousand dollars per annum to the new company, till the entire line from Bangor to Halifax shall pay *six per cent.* interest or dividend upon its cost to the new company. After the payment of 6 per cent. on the cost to the company, the net income of the road from Bangor to Halifax, above the payment of said 6 per cent., shall be paid over, one-half to the two Provinces and the other half to this company.

Responsible parties now stand ready to contract for the building of the entire road remaining to complete the chain, (290 miles,) at the rate of \$30,000 per mile through Maine, and at the same ratio, according to the amount of work to be executed, in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

By order of the Directors.

JOHN A. POOR,

Pres't E. & N. A. R. W. Co. of Maine.

To the Hon. C. TUPPER, Prov. Sec'y.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
HALIFAX, March 4th, 1864. }

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ult., containing a proposal on the part of the European and North American Railway Company of Maine for the completion of the line from Portland to Halifax. And I am commanded by his Excellency the Administrator of the Government, to state in reply, that the Government of this Province are not disposed to lease the existing line from Halifax to Truro, but would be prepared to submit to the Legislature a proposal to grant a subvention of eighty thousand dollars per annum to facilitate the construction of the line from Truro to the border of Nova Scotia, provided arrangements were made to connect with the railway in New Brunswick.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES TUPPER.

To JOHN A. POOR, Esq.,

Pres't E. & N. A. R. Co., &c.

[By Telegraph.]

AUGUSTA, March 14, 1864.

Hon. C. TUPPER, Prov. Sec'y,
Halifax, N. S.:

Yours of 4th inst. received. How do you propose to unite interests from Halifax to Bangor? Our bills will not go through, giving us the means to build from Halifax to Bangor, if one company or one interest is secured.

Answer by telegraph.

JOHN A. POOR.

[By Telegraph.]

HALIFAX, N. S., March 15, 1864.

To J. A. POOR.—Government here would recommend the Legislature to grant the facilities stated in my letter for extension from Truro, and would make