

That in order to secure the adoption of the measure by the Legislature the then Minister of Finance availed of his official position as Finance Minister to make a financial statement to the House in the course of his argument in support of the Bill and previous to the introduction of his budget, to the effect that the money consideration to be received from Mr. Reid under the Contract was immediately necessary to pay off certain debentures which had become payable, whereas in fact payment of the said debentures could have been provided without difficulty under the Act of the Legislature passed for that purpose.

For the foregoing reasons, and for the reasons set forth in the memorandum forwarded by us, we humbly pray that the Bill entitled the Newfoundland Railway Act be disallowed or be referred to the electorate in order to obtain a pronouncement thereon with a view to the subsequent disallowance of the Bill by Her Majesty's Government.

J. D. RYAN,
Chairman.
L. H. MILLER,
Secretary.

To the Right Honourable
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure 2 in No. 27.

B,

St. John's, Newfoundland,
November 24, 1898.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

ON behalf of the Citizens' Committee of St. John's, we beg to request that you will transmit to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the enclosed communication from the Committee relative to the advocacy of the Railway Bill in the Legislature by Mr. Reid's solicitor, and setting forth further reasons, in addition to those contained in the memorandum of legal objections previously forwarded, against the allowance of the Railway Bill.

We would take this occasion to point out to Your Excellency that the Petitions already sent in against the ratification of the Railway Bill, containing signatures to the number of about seventeen thousand, are from the principal towns in the colony as well as from the outport constituencies and have been largely signed by the clergy and other professional men as well as by the planters and persons engaged in the trade and fisheries of the country, irrespective of party politics. The Committee expect, before the next fortnightly mail leaves for England, to have the honour of forwarding to Your Excellency Petitions from extern districts, having three thousand signatures attached to them. Besides the Petitions referred to by us, we beg to acquaint Your Excellency that others are at present being signed in various parts of the country.

We have, &c.,
J. D. RYAN,
Chairman.
L. H. MILLER,
Secretary.

His Excellency Sir H. H. Murray, K.C.B.

No. 28.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received December 6, 1898.)

[Answered by No. 30.]

Government House, St. John's,
November 25, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE forwarded in my despatch of the 24th instant,* for your information, further Petitions from Electoral Districts in this Colony, praying that Her Majesty will suspend her approval of the Act which embodies the Railroad, &c., Contract of the present year.

* No. 27.