

ask a man to store his corn, and wait till you get engines and waggons to carry it away for him? Or, are you not rather to watch the progress of your own traffic, see what your customers are doing, ascertain where a connection may be got, and, having satisfied your minds on those points, get the means of doing the work there is to do? (Hear, hear.) What means have we taken? I will not speak of myself, because Mr. Villeboisnet seems to think I don't know anything about the affairs of the Company. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Adams.) Mr. Adams seems to sympathise with that remark. (A laugh.) But really the Directors had taken every possible pains to ascertain whether there was traffic or not. You have some insight into this matter by reading the figures representing the progress of the last five years. I say that the rate of increase is remarkable. If you find that in five years you can increase the total traffic $47\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., you have a fair criterion of what the increase may be in the future, provided you have the means of doing the work. But we sent over for Mr. Brydges, and went into the question with him. He made a report, which was sent to every share and bondholder. Mr. Brydges attended here, and after a three hours' discussion, I maintain that the whole subject was turned upside down, and sifted in every possible way. Here is Mr. Brydges' opinion. He says:—

"I know how difficult it is to deal with figures in such a case, but I have every confidence—from the figures which I have already referred to, and from my knowledge of the traffic of Canada, and of the 'through business,' which is so urgently and persistently pressed upon us—that the providing of £200,000 worth of additional rolling-stock would within a reasonable time raise our weekly receipts—which in the last five years have risen from £17,700 a week to £26,092—to an average of £32,000, or say, £6,000 a week, as against a rise of upwards of £8,000 in the last five years."

It is upon that careful consideration of the subject, and upon that report from a practical man who discusses the whole subject with you, that we have brought a financial scheme before you. No one can accuse the board of having gone hastily or negligently into this matter, or of having proposed a scheme to you, without the conviction that the traffic was there, provided we have the means of doing the work. I am not one of those who think Canada is going to be stationary, I believe that now the confederation is consolidated, Canada will be highly