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Stations. Moncton, leave, 15.45; arrive 10.00 Buctouche, arrive, 18.00; leave 7.30 Trains run daily Sunday excepted.

E. G. EVANS, Supt. Hampton, N. B., 1891.

THE MARITIME RAILWAYS. Reasons why they Should be Amalgamated with the Intercolonial.

[Montreal Gazette.]

The proposal that the Dominion Government should assume control of the independent railways in NewBrunswick and Nova Scotia, which connect with the Intercolonial system, has met with a good deal of opposition in certain quarters con the ground that the transaction would involve a heavy annual charge on the treasury. That argument is not in itself conclusive, since it is based on the result of a condition of things remedial to a considable extent by the new policy advocated. The Intercolonial Railway at present entails a charge on the general revenues, not merely in the shape of interest on the capital outlay, but from the deficit in earnings, which in the last fiscal year fell short of the cost of operating expenses by \$553,000; yet few people can be found to support the opinion of Mr. John Charlton, M. P., that the railway ought to be abandoned, and this tax on the revenues so terminated. Putting aside altogether the compact of Confederation which made the Dominion Government responsible for the construction and operation of the Intercolonial, it is obviously an absurdly narrow view to gauge the value of that property solely by the result of its working. Rates upon the Intercolonial are made low by water competition during a large part of the year, and by necessities of a long haul, but while the consequence in one direction is a deficit in earnings, in another it is of immense advantage in the promotion of inter-provincial trade, and development of the resources of the Maritime Provinces. A low rate of carriage on the Intercolonial constitutes a wise and beneficial protection to Canadian trade, without which much of the commerce between the provinces by the sea and the west would be exposed to diversion to American channels, and much of the development of natural resources, especially timber and mineral wealth, would be lost. So that the mere fact of a deficit arising out of the operation of the Intercolonial does not, in itself, constitute evidence of the unprofitable character of that investment, nor strengthen the contention of the Liberals like Mr. Charlton, who are prepared to close up so important an artery of

Canadian commerce.

When the question of the absorbtion of independent branch lines comes to be dealt with, precisely the same kind of objection is raised. Because some of these enterprises have not yet developed sufficient trafic to render them profitable in a book-keeping sense, the conclusion is jumped at that to merge them into the Intercolonial system would add further drain to the general treasury. In looking over the railway returns we find that practically all these independent lines are in the province of New Brunswick, similar local enterprises in Nova Scotia having, with one or two exceptions, been either built by the Dominion Government as feeders to the Intercolonial or acquired by the government after construction. There are some ten of these independent local roads in New Brunswick, having a mileage of 463 miles, with gross earnings in the year of 1890 of \$185,356, and operating expenses of \$159,846, leaving a net profit of \$35,000. Several of these railways are of recent construction, their equipment is doubtless in many respects deficient, and the traffic within their reach has yet been inadequately developed. They have an aggregate bonded debt of \$2,110,000, bearthe high rate of six per cent., entailing an annual charge on the net revenues of \$126,000. Now it is a fair and intelligent position to take, to contend that the absorption of these lines by the Intercolonial would make important economies in administration possible, as well as a material reduction in operating expenses. All experience in railway management points to the conclusion that combination creates cheapness in operating, that the longer the continuous haul the less relatively the cost, and that the expense of maintenance and equipment can likewise be modified. Upon the face of the figures as disclosed in the railway returns, there is really no warrant for the sweeping condemnation passed by Liberal journals upon the proposal to merge the independent lines into the Intercolonial system. Upon general principles such a policy is to be condemned, although, of course, before any decision can be arrived at careful and close scrutiny into the situation and position of the properties must be made, and the public interest, including that of the general treasury, must be thoroughly safeguarded. But the scheme is at least worthy of serious consideration, whether taken by itself or as a part of a larger proposal to put the whole Intercolonial

Book Agent and Bulldog.

system under a non-political management.

The story teller was a book agent, nevertheless I enjoyed listening to him as he reeled off the yarn something after this

"Down in Jones county lives a farmer who used to keep a bulldog for the special purpose of scaring away book agents and tramps, 'who, otherwise' he declared, would pester the life out of his wife and hired girl.'

man's nature.

Tiger enjoyed it was a live, long legged book agent, one who could run and yell. His rather melancholy countenance would light up the instant he caught sight of one of these gentle beings ambling up towards the front door. Then he would quickly slide under the front stoop and calmly await the approach of his unsuspecting victim. When the book agent was within ten feet of the front step out would spring old Tiger with a savage growl. The frightened book agent with a yell of terror, would bound backward, and start on a bee line for the garden wall. But before he could take three bounds old Tiger, with a low, chuckling growl of pleasure, would fasten his sharp teeth in the seat of his trousers and hang on till the farmer and his two hired hands came with crowbars and grinning faces, pried apart the jaws and set the captive free.

"All this I learned from one who had recently been there.

"The gory tale set my heart in a tumult of indignation and I determined to teach that bulldog a lesson. I procured three pounds of the strongest cayenne pepper obtainable, fastened it firmly to the seat of my trousers—my second best—and thus loaded I walked boldly up to the door of the cranky farmer and carniverous

" As I swung open the front gate I saw old Tiger dodge under the front piazza. I walked boldly on, and when within about ten feet of the 'first step with a blood curdling growl old Tiger sprung for me. He was an awful sight, with his wide open mouth full of gleaming ivories, and I turned and ran for all I was worth. I had not made three jumps before I felt a jerk and heard a tearing sound, and then my ears were greeted with a howl of pain. I then knew that the bulldog had gotten his eyes, nose and mouth chuck full of my second best trowsers and cayenne pepper. A great joy welled up into my heart and I stopped and watched the

"He howled as though a hundred fiends had lent him their tongues, clawed at his mouth, rolled over beds of rare flowers, de molished costly rose bushes, turned double summersaults backward and forward and practiced all kinds of astounding gymnastical feasts. At last one of his gyrations landed him on the back stoop. In a moment the swill barrel was tipped over and the farmer's wife and hired girl were upset in its contents. Great, then, was the confusion for a few moments. During this melee I thought it best to decamp, and turned and walked happy and triumphant away. The last glimpse I caught of the dog as I passed over the brow of the hill, found him rolling over a lot of clothes that had just been laid out upon

the grass to dry. "The next day I called again to note

results and reap my reward. "The moment I stepped within the yard I saw the bulldog, with head down and tail between his legs, start like a streak of chain lightning for the barn, whence ever and anon, long-drawn agoniz-

ing howls reached my ears. "When once in the house I was treated like a king. The farmer's wife and hired girl had not had a chance to talk to a book agent for six months, and consequently were almost wild with delight to see me. The old lady bought \$20 worth of books cash down, the hired girl had me write in her autograph album, where none but her dearest friends were allowed to scribble; and when at last I was compelled to go, the dear old lady gave me her blessing in a trembling voice and a Bible; while the hired girl, as she hid her streaming eyes in the folds of her not over clean apron, begged me to send her my photograph and a lock of my auburn hair."

The Wild Fruits. Each year the berry industry makes rapid strides till now some thousands of the people of this province are engaged in the business, and the quantity is counted by car loads, while the proceeds equal if not exceed that of any other export except lumber. The greater portion of Charlotte and western York counties as well as large tracts of Sunbury are vast plains where blueberries grow in rich profusion. Much of this territory is unvisited and the crop goes to waste because there are no roads by which the fruit can be got out. All the lakes and dead water brooks are fringed with land containing vast quantities of cranberries, very few of which reach the market. The whole province where the woods have been cleared is a strawberry field, while all rocky sections produce raspberries abundantly. Instead of shipping the fruit in its fresh state a good business could be done in canning but very little of this is done. On the St. Andrews' road, at what is known as Brockway there is a plain of over four thousand acres in extent which raises thousands of bushels of blueberries each year. Could a better spot be found for a canning factory.—Gleaner.

Nitrate of Soda on Wheat.

The wonderful properties of nitrate of soda are being strikingly exhibited at the Ohio agricultural experimenting station where wheat is being grown continuously under different methods of fertilizing. Although the nitrate was not applied until the middle of April, it stimulated such a big growth that the plots which received "Tiger was the dog's name and the nitrate in large quantities carry almost thrice as gerat a weight of vegetation as do "Now if there was any one thing that the plots that have no nitrate.

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