

addressed to the Inspector General of Fortifications.

I have perused this able document with the interest and attention it so well merits; and I have to convey to you the assurance of Her Majesty's government, that we fully appreciate the importance of the proposed undertaking, and entertain no doubt of the great advantages which would result, not only to the Provinces interested in the work, but to the Empire at large, from the construction of such a Railway; but great as these advantages would be, it is impossible for me to be sensible that the obstacles to be overcome in providing for so large an expenditure as would be thus incurred, would be of a very formidable kind. Before, therefore, Her Majesty's Government proceed to consider the question, as to whether any steps should be taken to carry this plan into effect, it is necessary that we should be informed how the several Provinces would be prepared to co-operate in its execution.

It is obvious that the cost of the work would be too great, as compared to the return to be anticipated from the probable traffic, to give reasonable hope of its being undertaken by any company as a private speculation. The question therefore arises, whether it would be expedient that in some form public assistance should be given towards the accomplishment of an object in which the public is so much interested.

The answer to this question must, in a great measure, depend upon the degree of importance which the Provinces attach to the opening of this line of communication, and upon the amount of exertion they would be prepared to make for the purpose. I am therefore anxious that the subject should be brought under the early consideration of the respective Legislatures, and that I should be placed in possession of their views with respect to it, as soon as may be practicable.

In forming a judgment as to whether public assistance ought to be given towards the execution of the work, it will be necessary to take into consideration the different ways in which this might be done. Various modes of proceeding have been proposed. One is, that of endeavoring to form a Company, by guaranteeing to them a certain minimum interest on the capital to be invested in the undertaking. This plan would no doubt possess some advantages, but on the other hand, it would be attended with the disadvantage of depriving the public of the proper control over a great National Work, and also of having a tendency to encourage inattention to economy both in the construction and subsequent working of the line. This last objection has been met by proposing that any company formed to construct the line, should receive assistance, not in the form of a guarantee of any given rate of interest, but of a fixed payment, either of capital towards the execution of the work, or of an annual sum of money in addition to the receipts derived from traffic when the line is completed.

Another plan which has been suggested is, that the required capital should be raised by loan by the Government, and Contracts entered into for the formation of the Line, which, when finished, could be worked either by the Government, or by any company formed for that purpose, and to which company the working of the line might be leased under such conditions and for such a period as might be deemed advisable. The objections to this proposal are those usually raised against the undertaking of such a work by a government, while on the other hand it would be attended with these advantages—first, that probably the capital required would be raised on better terms than could otherwise be expected; and secondly, that the government would have a more complete control over a great national line of communication.

I am not able at present to pronounce any opinion in favor of one or other of these plans, or even in favor of the measures being attempted at all; but I merely throw out these different suggestions for the consideration of yourself, and of the Executive Council and Legislature of New Brunswick.

It will further be very material to consider what return is to be expected for the outlay, and from what source the means of affording any pecuniary assistance to be given by the respective Provinces can best be provided. Upon this part of the subject I have to remark, that in estimating the probable return which the Railway would yield, it appears to me highly necessary to advert not only to the direct return from the traffic, but to the indirect return from the increased value given to the lands through which it will pass. That the opening of the line would, in the districts it traversed, greatly enhance the value of the lands which are still lying waste, and also, though in an inferior degree, the value of those already settled, there can be no reasonable doubt; though I do not possess the means of judging whether the amount of that increased value has been correctly estimated by Major Robinson in his Report. Hence it seems to follow, that this increased value ought to be made available towards the execution of the work; and I would suggest for the consideration of the Colonial Authorities, whether it might not be advisable that Acts should be passed, vesting in the hands of Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, all the hitherto ungranted Lands lying within a certain distance of the Line in order that these lands might be sold or otherwise appropriated for the promotion of the undertaking.

It might also, I think, be very reasonably enacted, that lands lying within a given distance of the Line, should be subjected, on its being completed and opened, to some moderate charge in the nature of a rate, in consideration of the benefit the proprietors receive from it. The practice is general, both in this country and in America, of rating for the Highways the

property which is benefited by them, and I can see no reason why this rate should not be extended to Railways. Should this suggestion be adopted it would, I think, be expedient to give the owners of land, subjected to this charge, the option of redeeming it upon easy terms, and paying in land when they might have a difficulty of doing so in money.

I understand from Major Robinson, that the owners of land in one portion of Nova Scotia, have already offered to contribute liberally to this object.

In addition to the value which the different Legislature would be prepared to contribute in land or by the imposition of a local charge upon lands benefited by the Line it would be necessary also for them to consider respectively, what amount they would be willing to grant from the general Revenue of the Province, towards the payment either of the interest of a loan to be raised for the execution of the work, or towards the sum which might be required to make good the engagements entered into with any Company that might undertake it.

The whole subject is one of the very highest importance, on which I shall be anxious to learn the conclusions to which the Colonial Authorities may come after mature consideration, and after such communication with each other as may be necessary.

Sir E. Head, GREY.

February 7.

Mr Carman presented a petition from the Rev. M. Egan, Joseph Russell, Richard Sutton, and 96 others, of the Parish of Nelson, praying that the grant of last session, to relieve the distress, and procure seed for that county, may be re-appropriated; also a petition from Thomas Ullock, R. A. Moand, George Johnstone, and 86 others, of the parish of Glenelg, of a like prayer; both laid on the table.

February 8.

Hon. L. A. Wilmut brought in a bill for the reduction of Judicial Salaries in this province, which was read a first time.

February 10.

Mr End presented a petition from John Henry and 145 others, of New Bandon, county of Gloucester, praying pecuniary assistance in the erection of a Breakwater on the south shore of the Bay de Chaleur; referred to the committee of trade.

Mr Barberie brought in a bill in amendment of the several acts to provide for sick and disabled seamen, not being paupers, belonging to this province, so far as relates to the county of Kent; brought in a first time.

Mr Barberie presented a petition from John Wheten, George Pagan, Wm. Bowser, and W. McLeod, Esquires, with J. W. Holderness & Chilton, and 78 others, of the county of Kent, in favor of the above; laid on the table.

Mr Carman presented a petition from Murdoch McKenzie and 12 others, settlers on the south side of Tabusintac river, county of Northumberland, praying a grant to enable them to purchase a lot of land in that settlement for the benefit of a School; referred to the education committee. Also, a petition from R. McLeod, John H. Harding, C. Robin & Co., and 27 others, praying a grant towards a Courier between Miramichi and Shippigan; referred to the mail committee. Also a petition from Michael Samuel & Sons, and fifteen others, merchants, mechanics, and laborers, of the county of Northumberland, having claims against the committee of sessions appointed to carry out the Quarantine Regulations in the year 1847, praying a grant to meet the several balances due to them; from Johnson & Mackie of a like prayer; from John T. Williston and William Letson, Esquires, the committee of the Northumberland General Sessions of the Peace appointed to carry out the Quarantine Regulations in the year 1847, praying that an investigation may be had into their accounts; and praying that a grant may pass to pay the several debts they had contracted, as also to reimburse them for expenses incurred; all referred to the emigrant poor committee.

POST OFFICE.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 1st ult., stating, with reference to a communication you had received from the Governor General of Canada, relative to the Postage question, the desire of the Legislature of New Brunswick to co-operate with the neighboring colonies for the amelioration of the postal arrangement. I transmit for your information the copy of a Despatch which I have recently addressed to the Earl of Elgin on this subject, and I have to acquaint you that I have submitted the point raised by the Attorney General, as to the amendment of the Criminal Law relating to the Post Office, for the consideration of the Postmaster General.

Sir E. Head, GREY.

Downing Street, December 15, 1848.

My Lord,—I have now to acknowledge your despatch of the 14th June last, enclosing the Report of the Committee of the Executive Council of Canada on the subject of the Provincial Post Office. I have communicated to the important subjects of this Report with the Heads of other Departments of Her Majesty's Government, and I have now to inform you that Her Majesty's Government is prepared to carry into effect the proposed arrangement, and to take steps by which the management of the Post Office in the North American Colonies will be left to the Colonial Governments. But on reference to the Law Officers, they have been advised that this cannot be done without the authority of an Act of Parliament; and application will therefore be made for that purpose in the ensuing Session.

Earl of Elgin, GREY.

THE STEAMERS.—Two of E. K. Collins's new line of Ocean steamships, to be named

the Atlantic and Pacific, are to be launched at New York at the same time on the 18th inst. From the several descriptions we have seen of these latter, we are satisfied that like their predecessors, we shall often be favored with a visit from them during the winter season. So that it will be necessary to keep a good supply of coal in Halifax for the purpose of helping them along to their several destinations.—Halifax Times.

The same paper says:—The Britannia and Acadia, two of the oldest and smallest of the Canada line, have been sold out of the concern, and we are happy to learn also, that the Clyde men are even now engaged in constructing several new vessels for the same magnificent line of ocean steamships.

CANADA.—A Resolution has passed the Legislature of this Province:—

"That it is expedient to provide for the free admission of grain and breadstuffs of all kinds; vegetables, fruit, seeds, animals, hides, wool, butter, cheese, tallow, horns, salt & fresh meats, ores of all kinds of metal, ashes, timber, staves, wood, and lumber of all kinds, of the growth of the United States of America, into Canada; whenever similar articles, the production of Canada, shall be admitted without duty into the said United States.

UNITED STATES.—From papers received per Canada we learn that the vexed question at issue between the Northerners and Southerners, is every day assuming a more serious aspect. The California gold mania is extending in every hand, and thousands are either off or making preparations to go, to the "gold diggings." The columns of every newspaper are crowded with advertisements of companies forming, ships sailing or up for passengers; and every article from a brass tinkle to a gold watch, or from a pair of specks to a great coat suitable for the climate, &c. of California. It is said that fifty vessels are at present loading, or up for freight to that favored region, in the port of New York alone.

The County of Gaspe is beginning to arouse itself from its twenty one years slumber; they look at other districts, and see themselves neglected, and we think that a spirit of enquiry has arisen amongst the residents, that will not be satisfied with an annual application of soft soap and promises. Roads, schools, postal regulations, free ports, a change in the justice Act, agriculture, and education, these should be the study, the object of their member to obtain for them. Yet how little stir has been made in the matter, and we opine that, except he redeem some of the many promises he has made, he will find at the next election that MEASURES, not MEN, will be the cry of the sensible men of Gaspe.—Gaspe Gazettee Feby. 8.

Total Abstinence Meeting!

A Meeting of the Total Abstinence Society, will be held in the Band Room, in Chatham, at 7 o'clock in the evening, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th inst. A collection will be made for defraying expenses. Chatham, February 20, 1849.

LIST of LETTERS

Received at the Newcastle Post Office during the month of January, and remaining for delivery.

- Connor Amos N Esk Ivory James
Cowie Andrew do Nelson village
Egan Thomas Kelly Martin
Hurd Ivory McGuire Wm
Scott Wm blackmaker Mansel's point
Shanahan James Noble John
Taylor Robert Nelson village
little south west O'Shaugheny Patrick
Tozer Ebenezer N Esk Quail Robert N Esk
N B Persons asking for advertised letters, will please say 'advertised.'
HUGH MORELL.

A List of Paupers

- Receiving Relief from Nelson Parish, at date:
Henry Doyle William Vye
Michael Whelan Charles Vye, William's son
John M'Inerny son
Mrs Roberts and 6 in Arthur Huys and 7 in number family
John Chainey John Connely
Andrew Suter
ROWLAND CROCKER, } Overseers
RICHARD SUTTON, } of Poor.
Nelson, 13th February, 1849.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

On Monday, the Twentieth day of August next, in front of Hamilton's Hotel, in Newcastle, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock, p. m. will be sold at Public Auction: All the right, title, interest, property, claim and demand of DANIEL LYON, to any Real Estate in the County of Northumberland, to satisfy an Execution issued out of the Supreme Court at the suit of William Loch against the said Daniel Lyon. W. A. BLACK, Sheriff. Newcastle, February 12, 1849.

Tea, Sugar and Wine.

The Subscriber has for Sale, 100 boxes TEA, about 25 lb. each, 3 hogsheds very superior Brown SUGAR, 3 Qr. casks good SHERRY WINE. HENRY CUNARD. Chatham, January 23, 1848.

Apollonian Circulating Library,

At the office of D. P. HOWE, Bookbinder, Chatham.

This collection of Books is in the joint possession of D. P. Howe and Wm. Forbes. It contains upwards of

300 Volumes,

(Independent of expected donations) of heterogeneous literature, of which the printed Catalogues will contain the names.

It may appear outrageous to organize a Lending Library of any stamp, when two preceding Libraries of greater strength existed, and disappeared; from one of which the nucleus of the present Mechanics' Institute Collection is formed, the price of which must offer an excuse to a number, while a class who are hostile to its general objects and arrangements, are also isolated from its advantages. The remains of the second lies entombed in the back office of Wm. Carnan, Jun., Esq., a very convenient place of sepulture to one or a few, but a flagitious attack upon the means of propagating knowledge, and advancing improvement.

Terms—7s. 6d. a year, payable in books. As its object is to furnish reading for those who have not got the means to resort to them, it is to be hoped on the score of philanthropy, that numbers will subscribe. Chatham, January 29, 1849.

Book and Stationary Store

The Subscriber begs leave to mention that he has opened in the above line, in the Commercial Building, immediately above the store of Mr W. A. Letson, where he will continue to keep on hand a general assortment of standard works, in History, Theology and General Literature, with every article in the Stationary Line; in connexion with which he has opened his

Book-Binding Establishment,

in the same place, and trusts to give general satisfaction to those who may employ him.

The following gentlemen will act as agents in receiving Books and Newspapers requiring binding:

- Mr ALFRED SMITH, merchant, Bathurst;
Mr JAMES WHETEN, do. Richibucto.
DAVIS P. HOWE.
Chatham, February 6, 1849.

TO LET, in Bathurst:

That House and Shop situated at the north side of the Bathurst Bridge, now occupied by Mr. Seaton, saddler. It is well calculated for business; comprising a small DWELLING HOUSE, and an excellent SHOP, in one of the best situations in Bathurst. Apply to WM. NAPIER, At his office, Bathurst.

NOTICE.

All persons having any just demands against the ESTATE of the late JAMES PATTERSON, late of Chatham, County of Northumberland, plasterer, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested, within THREE MONTHS from the date hereof:—and all persons indebted the said Estate, are requested to make immediate payment to Mr James Johnson, Chatham.

JAMES PATTERSON, Administrator. Chatham, 7th October, 1848.

List of Letters

For the month of December, 1848, remaining in the Post Office, Chatham, for delivery, 15th January, 1849.

- Bryson John, care of J. G. Mrs Emmy
Noonan point aux car
Bell Thomas care of Hickey M
Geo Letsen Johnston Mrs Elizabeth
Bunner John McConnell & engineer
Conway M Napan Pembroke Jane
Cameron John Bk River Renouid H Wm
Carrol Miles Bartiboge Russell Angus point
Daly Timothy carpenter aux car
Dowling Benjamin Stannard Samuel care
care of Geo Letsen of Geo Ogilvie
Daley Wm Stewart Chas Napan
Davidson Wm senior Scallin Jos Chatham
Davidson Joseph Sinclair R. black river
care of Geo Davidson Vard William
Young Wm
JAMES CAIE, P. M.
N. B. Persons asking for any of the above Letters, will please say Advertised.

FOR SALE.

The Subscriber offers for sale that pleasantly situated and

Valuable Farm,

owned and occupied by him in the parish of Newcastle, adjoining the Flodes property. There is about twenty acres under a good state of cultivation, well fenced, with a good

House and Barn,

thereon—and is well worthy the attention of any person acquiring a Farm. For further particulars apply on the premises to JAMES MORELL.

Newcastle, 5th February, 1849.

N. B. There is a valuable Fishing privilege attached to this property.

NOTICE.

The Subscriber has resumed the Auction & Commission Business, and is ready to execute any orders entrusted to him by his friends and others.

JOHN M. JOHNSON, Auctioneer. Chatham, 4th August, 1848.