

within the limits of the Province. On some occasions he had even gone ahead of the Administration for the time being. In 1857 a resolution was moved in the house for the construction of the Pictou Railway. On that occasion he had warmly advocated that scheme, being then as now in opposition. The Government of the day, acting under the belief of what they considered most judicious under existing circumstances, refused to accept the resolution; and, after the calm consideration which a few years had enabled him to give to the subject, he had no hesitation in acknowledging that he thought they discharged their duty to the country on that occasion.

When last year an attempt to repeal the Intercolonial Railway act was made by the government he had not hesitated to express in the most emphatic terms his views in favor of communication between the Provinces, and his preference of that great scheme to even the Pictou railway which was at the last session under discussion. He would refer to his language on that occasion to show how warm he had expressed himself on the subject.

"It appears," he had then said, "according to the opinions of the present government of this province that the terms agreed to were too burdensome for Nova Scotia. The Canadian ministry have also taken the ground that the burthen imposed upon them is too great. With these opinions prevailing at the Nova Scotia end and at the Canadian end, it is obvious that even if the act remained in force, the prospect of an intercolonial line is adjourned to an indefinite period in the future. Therefore I feel that we can approach the subject of a Pictou railway in a very different spirit from what we could have done if there were any hopes from the legislature in reference to the intercolonial scheme. I have no hesitation in saying that in dealing with this important question I would not be doing justice to myself if I did unequivocally state what policy I would pursue if the intercolonial project were feasible. I consider the branch to Pictou is of sectional interest compared with the former scheme. It would be a priceless boon to Nova Scotia, jutting out as she does 500 miles on the path to Europe, if we could have consummated an undertaking which must have made her the wharf on which the traffic of two continents would concentrate."

And again, "I must fully confess in conclusion that it has been with no little hesitation that I have given up so desirable a project as the Intercolonial railway scheme. I have always looked at it as the precursor of *that union* which has so long been the hope of every intelligent man who wishes to see the arena of politics in this province enlarged and ennobled. I fear very much that the action of the government on the present occasion has done very much to postpone the great intercolonial question. I fear we are giving away the chances of ever effecting that great work, but on the gentlemen opposite rests the entire responsibility."

It would be seen, therefore, that while he did not hesitate to express the most unqualified preference for the construction of the Intercolonial Road, he had not attempted to disguise from himself or the house that the necessary effect of embarking in that scheme was in his opinion to postpone to an indefinite period the construction of the Intercolonial Railway on any scheme which was then open to us, or could be opened to our unassisted resources.

But not only was he interested in this railway as a public man, and from Provincial considerations, but he was a representative of a county through which that road must pass.—Again, he was interested in a valuable mineral property in that county, which would be exceedingly benefited by the completion of this enterprise, provided the route selected should be the one indicated in the proposals of the company and on the table of the house. Therefore it would be seen that not only his interests as a public man and as a representative of the county, but also his personal and private interests were at stake in this matter. Therefore, if he did not give his assent to the present resolution, it could not be said that he was acting from personal or selfish motives. He thought, too, he could appeal to the house to bear their testimony, that during this and last session he had not exhibited any spirit towards the Government that would subject him to the imputation of factious opposition to any measure, but had a right to be considered as acting from a desire to discharge what he believed to be his duty to the people of this country.

He regretted that he had not all the documents at hand which would enable him to give that full information in respect to the state of our finances which he was desirous of giving. At the last session of the house a resolution was adopted, by which it was determined that the financial year should end on the 30th September instead of on the 31st Decr., so it was impossible to get the means of comparison between 1864 and 1865. A large portion of the liabilities which were chargeable on the year did not fall due till its end. He had, at an early period of the session, asked for the requisite information; but the Financial Secretary had not yet been able to hand him the documents which were necessary to make the accurate comparison he wished; no doubt, in the hurry of the session it was difficult for the officials to give all the information desirable.—However, looking at the accounts as laid on the table, he found that on the 30th September, 1864, the balance in the hands of the Receiver-General was \$225,156—a large amount, no one will deny, to be in the treasury. The possession of this balance was nothing, if at the time it was in the treasury we owed the amount, or a larger amount than these monies would enable us to pay.

Now it appeared by the statement submitted that at the very time when this sum appeared to our credit we owed \$276,000 for various services, so with this sum to pay, and only \$225,156 on hand to pay it with, we could not be considered as having necessarily a large amount at our disposal. We had, it was true, in the shape of assets coming in, a considerable additional sum, but as far as he could gather from the accounts there appeared to have been borrowed from the Savings Bank \$42,000, and from Treasury notes \$40,000, making \$82,000, which had gone to swell the receipts, and which, though actually borrowed money, had been treated by the Government as so much revenue, and added to the balance at their disposal.

He had been desirous of ascertaining our financial condition on the 31st Dec. last and therefore had asked for the amount of the revenue till that date. He anticipated that there must be a falling off. It was impossible to contemplate the condition of things in the United