

Railway Company, who pay to the Government one-third of the gross receipts.

The Inter-colonial.

488. The main line of the Intercolonial runs from Point Lévis, Quebec, to Halifax, a distance of 688 miles, and forms part of the through mail line between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The building of this line was one of the conditions on which the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick entered the Confederation, and its construction was also desired for military purposes by the Imperial Government, who guaranteed the interest on a loan not exceeding \$15,000,000 towards its cost, and it was in consequence of their representations, on military grounds, that the line takes the apparently circuitous course that it does. The total mileage, including extensions, is 866 miles, and the total amount expended on the road up to 30th June, 1886, was \$44,172,743.

Business of the Inter-colonial.

489. The following figures show the progress the business of this road has made during the last seven years.

Earnings for the past seven years:—

1880.....	\$1,506,298
1881.....	1,760,393
1882.....	2,079,262
1883.....	2,370,921
1884.....	2,353,647
1885.....	2,368,153
1886.....	2,383,201

The amount of freight carried during the same period :—

	Tons.
1880.....	561,924
1881.....	725,577
1882.....	833,956
1883.....	970,961
1884.....	1,001,163
1885.....	970,069
1886.....	1,008,545