

Strachan Avenue is a garden and plantation; the prisoners are not confined there at all; I think the Government own that; it is about 4,700 feet from Queen Street to Strachan Avenue—nearly a mile.

"Q.—And you see no reason why a railway should not be constructed on that strip?

"A.—No reason at all, provided they got the ground."

Mr. HAGGART—The Government may direct it to be built there.

Mr. CASSELS—The Government may, but surely when you come here to ask for our land you should have made inquiries beforehand to learn whether the Government would let you have that or not. It will be a great injury to the Grand Trunk Railway to be crippled in this way. We would have regarded the license of occupation, and would not have fought the suit if there had not been that vacant land; but we are justified in looking to the future of our railway, and I say to the Mayor and Corporation of Toronto, that the interests of their city require that we should compel the taking of that extra space, because, in the course of time, they will want it for other railways coming in. Is it not time that these vacant lands were utilized? I have witnesses here to give evidence on several points when the principle of the Bill is discussed, if it is to be gone into.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK—What objection have you to the line laid down by Mr. Shanly after it passes Brock Street, or have you any?

Mr. CASSELS—If you take the statements of the Credit Valley Company, as published in the *Telegram* and otherwise, you will find that it runs at right angles to and crosses about twenty of our tracks.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK—Have they not a right to get to the water?

Mr. CASSELS—That is a point on which I offer no remark, for the simple reason that, unless they get to Bathurst Street, and are determined to go further, it is not necessary to consider it. I have evidence here that it would ruin the yard of the Grand Trunk Railway, and would seriously endanger life and property, but I do not profess to be an engineer, and do not give my own opinion.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD—Can they get east of Bathurst Street?

Mr. CASSELS—They can.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—The engineers should have given some instructions as to the manner of getting east of Bathurst Street.

Mr. CASSELS—If it comes to a matter of engineering necessity, I am prepared to show that the proper route is the one now asked for—through the Northern Company's yard. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I believe that the Northern was equally willing to give your land. (Laughter.)

Mr. CASSELS—Fortunately for us, the Northern have no control over our land, and fortunately, perhaps, for them we have not the location of the Credit Valley line.

Mr. OLIVER—I understood Mr. Cassels to say that the Local Government was perfectly willing to give the land south of the 100 feet for nothing.

Mr. CASSELS—I did not say that, but I am perfectly satisfied, from what they have done for other railways, that they ought to give it for nothing, and I am equally satisfied that what they ought to do they will do. (Laughter.)