

the Bill before the House of Commons relating to the Northern Railway, which was named the Northern Railway Relief Bill and Consolidation Bill. At this special session the Council sent a memorial to the Governor-General protesting against any interference with the standing of their stock, which they would not relinquish unless by way of bonus to the North Simcoe Railway Company. In due course of time, the Northern Railway Act of 1875 became law as 38 Vict., chapter 65.

The autumn session (September, 1875) of the County Council was called especially early to consider railway matters. A special committee on the disposal of the stock held by the county reported in favour of assisting such a re-arrangement of the railway's capital account as would enable the company to raise the necessary funds for the purposes it had in view. They recommended a commutation of the \$200,000 stock into new ordinary stock at 25 per cent. of its value, conditionally upon Toronto commuting also, and there were other conditions added. None of the conditions were satisfied, so the proposition fell through.

Again, in January, 1876, a Bill was to be introduced at the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament to provide for alterations in the management and proprietary interest of the Northern Railway, and the Council were busy watching it, lest something detrimental to the stock should be incorporated in the measure. The County Treasurer reported to the Council, in January, 1878, that the county's stock in the Northern Railway had been, by Act of Parliament, converted into sterling, and the new stock for £40,000 (sterling) had been handed over to him.

In October, 1878, a special committee of the Council, appointed to confer in regard to the stock held by the county, reported that "it would be to the interest of the county, etc., that the stock be surrendered to the Railway Company," so that it could proceed with the improvements it had in view. This report raised a storm of dissent, and was left over until the January session, *i.e.*, given a 3 months' hoist.

In the Warden's address, January, 1879, he mentioned that the Northern Railway Company (the North Simcoe Branch being now complete) had at the time 150 miles of railway exclusively in this county, with station houses, freight buildings, etc., all paying taxes annually. For some years the railway company had desired to change the gauge of the line from the broad gauge to the general standard