

# CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY BILL.

Discussion Before the Railway Committee of the House of Commons.

*(Reported by A. & Geo. C. Holland, Senate Reporters, Ottawa.)*

RAILWAY COMMITTEE ROOM, HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, March 23rd, 1880.

The Credit Valley Railway Bill was taken up for discussion.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN (Chairman) having read the preamble of the Bill,

MR. HAGGART said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the object of this Act, as recited, is for the purpose of vesting in the Governor in Council the power of controlling the disposition and alignment of the Northern Railway tracks entering into the City of Toronto, and affording to the Credit Valley Railway right of way to their water lot in the city. As most of you are aware, by an Act of the Old Parliament of Canada, passed in 1859, the Government assumed all the property of the Northern Railway. In the following year they gave back to the Northern Railway, by Order in Council, which was confirmed by an Act passed in the same year, the same property, reserving to themselves control over the disposition and alignment of the different lines entering into the City of Toronto. By an Act subsequently passed in the 38th year of Her Majesty's reign, Cap. 65, for the purpose of consolidating the different statutes affecting the Northern Railway, it is contended by that company that the right in and absolute control over those tracks was re-invested in the Northern Railway. The question has been up before the courts, and the Court of Chancery has decided that that power has been re-invested in the Northern Railway, but some facts, which have come to our notice since the decision of the court, point to the conclusion that it was not the intention of the Legislature, in passing that Act, to give this property to the Railway. It was so understood by the House and by the Northern Railway Company themselves. I will read to the Committee a letter by Mr. Cumberland, the General Manager of the Northern Railway, which was sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Ontario, and to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior at Ottawa, written about a month after the passage of this Act:—