

of the Members of the Ontario Government made at subsequent meetings and at certain celebrations, both Mr. Laidlaw and Mr. Wood were justified in saying that the road would be made a great colonization road, and be completed to the Ottawa from Haliburton by the Ontario Government.

As soon as possible after this, in the month of May, 1874, the ratepayers of Lindsay granted a bonus of \$85,000 to the Victoria railway company; and it may be remarked here that when certain conditions were to be mentioned in connection with the town debentures to be given to the said company, objections were made on the part of the company, it being asserted that any stringent conditions would so affect the sale of the bonds or debentures as to render them unsaleable in any market. The people of Lindsay having however confidence in the assurances given and in the promises made, on behalf of the Victoria railroad company and of the Ontario Government were induced to accept such bonds as the company were willing to give, which bonds as subsequently appeared were almost worthless, and totally so, so far as securing the completion of the road to Ottawa was concerned.

It was publicly announced that on the 5th of August, 1874, the commencement of the work for the construction of the Victoria railroad would be made at Lindsay. The Hon. C. F. Frazer, Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario, officially as it were, turned the first sod, and made the following remarks:—

Hon. C. Frazer said, "It was his individual opinion, and not speaking as a member of the Government, that no better method could be adopted for the advancement of a country than by building railways. If the Province of Ontario was to keep ahead in the Dominion they must project and carry on these leading railways. He heartily wished prosperity and success to the Victoria Railway."

Hon. Mr. Mowat said, "He did not think there was any way in which the Government could more

useful  
coura  
ment  
adver  
that  
concl  
comm

said  
to sa  
their  
He h  
schen  
their  
railw  
the G

feel v  
necti  
the g  
prese  
prese  
Victo  
the to  
(Chee

that  
to the

P., sp

I  
ernm  
in pus  
lieved  
major  
S