

which are considered highly favorable to the company; and the work, including a bridge across the Grand River at Paris, is rapidly progressing.

The Directors, in order to maintain the character of the road as the shortest route possible from the Niagara River to Lake Huron, felt that they properly discharged their duty to the shareholders at large, in selecting the point at which the road should intersect the line of the Great Western Railway, by holding themselves superior to local influences, which, however strongly put forth, ought not, in their judgment, on any occasion to be allowed to outweigh the general interests of the undertaking.

The surveys and examinations of the western division show a line remarkably well adapted for railway enterprise, about half the distance being nearly level, with remarkably straight lines throughout. The contract has been let and orders given to have the work over the whole of this division at once proceeded with.

The connections of this road at both termini will necessarily secure to it a large and rapidly increasing business. Its eastern terminus being opposite the city of Buffalo, will command a large portion of the through travel which at present takes the route of the western lakes, as also of the travel and freight which reaches Buffalo by the Erie Canal, which extends from the Hudson or North River for a distance of 363 miles, and forms the great artery of transport for the commerce of the west. The total movement of freight by this canal for the year 1852 exceeded 2,000,000 tons.

The city of Buffalo now contains a population of about 70,000, with real estate assessed at upwards of \$30,000,000. It forms the center of a railway system radiating from it and connecting through numerous important towns and cities with the eastern sea-board.

The New York Central Railroad to Albany, in connection with the Hudson River Railroad to New York, and the Western Road to the city of Boston, forms one of the lines from the East terminating at Buffalo; and on the Western Division of this road, alone, 469,125 passengers were carried during the year 1852. The Buffalo and New York City, connecting with the New York and Erie Railroad at Hornellsville, completed during the past