

*Enclosures.*

Petition from Directors of the Company, 15th April, 1883, covering Report of A. L. Light, Esq., C.E., and map.

Memorial from members of the House of Commons, dated 28th March, 1883.

Resolution passed by Corporation of the City of Ottawa, 25th April, 1883.

Report to Council, May 11th, 1883.

*Ottawa County Railway System and Northern Development.*

OTTAWA, ONT., 23rd April, 1883.

SIR,—During the closing week of the Session of last Parliament, as you will doubtless remember, resolutions were introduced granting subsidies to certain railroads.

In summing up the debate, you thus referred to prospective subsidies, and more particularly to the Gatineau Valley and Ottawa County Railway system:—

“Every mile of road constructed puts a certain sum into the Treasury. In Nova Scotia, when we were an isolated Province, we involved ourselves in a heavy indebtedness, for the purpose of constructing railways, which gave no direct return to the Treasury; but after careful consideration it was found that the entire money expended this way by the Province was returned year by year from the increased revenue arising from the increased development of the country. I think, therefore, that in that respect this policy is based on a sound and legitimate foundation. I wish to mention one word with reference to what is not contained in the resolution. My hon. friend for the County of Ottawa (Mr. Wright) has placed before me a pressing application for aid to a work which I have no doubt is of great importance in developing an important section of country. I refer to the Gatineau Valley Railway. I may say with reference to these applications, that the Government have not felt able to go further than the resolutions which are submitted to the House; but during recess, careful investigation and examination will be made by the Department into all these applications, and we shall be very glad if any of them can be placed on such a footing that we can ask the House to aid them, as we have those which are embraced in these resolutions.”

We gathered from this, that the Dominion Government would require to be put in possession of

1st. A detailed statement concerning the Railways in question.

2nd. That the Report of a responsible Engineer would be requisite to establish the practicability of the enterprise.

3rd. That the promoters were in a position to proceed with the work.

4th. That Capitalists were willing to undertake the construction, equipment and operation of the entire road, provided any encouragement was given by the Dominion.

We therefore beg to submit that since September, 1881, a large staff of explorers, engineers, and other officials have been engaged, with such results as are set forth in the compiled Reports now published in pamphlet form.

The Directors beg to say that the action of the Dominion Government during the Parliamentary Session of 1882, towards other enterprises, encouraged them in their efforts to secure surveys and data at a great cost, and the more those surveys and explorations were prosecuted the more satisfied were they that the construction of the lines through Ottawa County, running in a northerly direction, would prove very beneficial to the entire Railway system of Quebec and Ontario.

They beg further to call attention to the Report of Mr. A. L. Light, Chief Engineer of the Government Railways for the Province of Quebec; that gentleman's services having been secured for the purpose of supplying an independent expression of opinion from a responsible source.

Mr. Light's Report accompanies this document.