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He considered the fact that these vince. companies have refused to interchange traffic except upon onerous terms, & in some cases have refused to interchange traffic at all, is a strong argument in favor of Government control & for the establishment of a railway comtrol & for the establishment of a railway commission. The policy of the Government would be to aid in railway construction when substantial concessions could be secured thereby. Next to securing facilities for the marketing of grain, the question of rates to the lake was the most important of those affecting the farmer.

Historical Sketch of the G.T.R.

(Continued from last issue.)

It will be seen from this that the scheme was for a trunk line running from Sarnia to Halifax on British territory. New Brunswick, however, insisted on a branch being built to Portland, Maine, but the Imperial authorities were not disposed to view this with favor & absolutely refused to give any guarantee if a foreign connection was in any way included in the proposals, or if the main line through New Brunswick was constructed on any other New Brunswick was constructed on any other survey than that made by Major Robinson in 1848. At that period the Intercolonial Rail-way as a grand highway to a winter seaport in British waters was a constant theme of discussion among the people of the three provinces of Canada, New Brunswick & Nova Scotia, &, of course, gave much scope for serious consideration to their respective governments. A line from Montreal to Portland was already under construction. Hence, it was with much disappointment, if not chagrin, that the great majority of the people saw their hopes blighted for a time at least. There were innumerable conferences between Provincial premiers, several missions to London & negotiations of a most intricate character, which it would be impossible to refer to here, even if desirable.

Suffice it to say that whilst in London, on one of these missions early in 1852, the late Sir Francis Hincks, at that time holding the position of Inspector-General -an office analogous to that of Finance Minister - learned that satisfactory financial arrangements for the building of that part of the line between Montreal & Toronto could be made with the firm of Betts & Brassey, railway contractors. They had just completed extensive works in France, and having a large quantity of unemployed plant, were ready to engage in constructing all the railways required in Canada. English capital to any amount that might be needed would be supplied, provided the works were entrusted to contractors who were known to and in the confidence of English capitalists. On the return of Sir Francis to Canada, he consulted his colleagues in the cabinet, & the proposals of the contractors, after being somewhat enlarged, were accepted by the Ministry. The lines to be constructed were those from Montreal to Hamilton, it having always been contemplated by the Government that the Great Western Ry., whose terminus was then at Hamilton, should be a portion of the Grand Trunk line, to which the public aid was limited. When these proposals were embodied in a bill incorporating the G.T.R. Co., & introduced in Parliament during the session held in the autumn of 1852, they met with considerable opposition from the supporters of the Montreal & Kingston Ry. Co., but finally carried on a division vote after being amended in some important respects.

The Provincial Government guarantee, instead of being for one-half the cost of the road, was limited to £3,000 sterling per mile, & the contractors, instead of requiring a Canadian subscription of one-tenth of the capital, undertook to obtain the whole in England. Later in the session a bill was passed authoriz-

ing the amalgamation of the G.T.R. Co. with the St. Lawrence & Atlantic, the Toronto & Guelph, the G.T.R. Co. of Canada East, the Quebec & Richmond Ry. Co. On Nov. 10, 1852, it received the Royal assent. It may be mentioned that the Toronto & Guelph Cohad power to continue its line to Sarnia. a supplementary agreement between the vari ous companies, dated April 12, 1853, the details of the amalgamation were completed, contract with Peto, Brassey, & Betts for building the Victoria ing the Victoria Bridge was made, & the At lantic & St. Lawrence Ry. from Portland Me., to the Canadian boundary line was leased for 999 years. The amalgamated lines form ed 964 miles of railway. The capital was placed at £9,500,000, & the shares were for £25 each. Eighteen directors were appointed, 9 of whom were nominated by the Government in consideration. ment in consideration of the provincial guarant tee, & with a view of protecting the public interests, 4 of these Government directors were terests, 4 of these Government directors were cabinet ministers, 4 were independent gentlemen of considerable influence, & the 9th was the Hon. John Ross, Solicitor-General, who was appointed President in Canada. Six of the 18 directors were resident in London, England, & T. Baring, M.P., acted for several years as Chairman of the London board. The 12 directors resident on this side of the The 12 directors resident on this side of the Atlantic composed the Canadian board, thus equipped & constituted the G.T.R. started upon its career.

With the promises & the probabilities in the matter of dividends, set forth in the prospectus issued by the Co. in 1853, it would be manifestly unfair at this late date to deal in a critical spirit, & whatever truth there may have been in the remark made in 1864 by the late T. Sturrow Brown, so well remembered as a subborn opponent of the Co., to the effect that "he who made in 1004 by the het that "he who would play the part of prophet before the fact stands in slippery places, for coincidences & contingencies in the world's affairs, of which the most far-seeing could never dream, often laugh to naught the wisest estimates of studious calculations," there annears but little grant the state of the studious calculations the state of the studious calculations the state of the stat appears but little reason or sense in the statements sometimes made upon this subject. The men of 1852 were engaged in the task of careful and t the task of constructing the longest railway in the world through a sparsely settled country, with wages & material much higher than they are to-day. They were, to a great extent, working in the dark, & none but the most captious or critical at this date, the experiences of to yours have at this date, the experiences of 40 years have ing taught us all many valuable lessons, will wonder that the period of construction of the G.T. line, say from 1853 to 1860, was one of great anxiety & financial difficulty to all concerned.

On July 22, 1853, no. 1 pier of the Victoria Bridge was commenced, & in the same month the road from Longueuil, opposite Montreal, to Portland, Me., was opened. Early in Jan., 1854, the main line of the Great Western Ry. from Hamilton to Sandwich, commenced working as a separate concern. working as a separate concern, & remained independent until Aug. 12, 1882. On Nov. 27, 1854, traffic was started over the from Richmond to Point Levis, opposite bec. Early in 1855 the Northern Rv. bec. Early in 1855 the Northern Ry. Co. commenced operating its line between routo & Collingwood. On Nov. 19 following the G.T. began traffic operations between Montreal & Brockville, & two weeks after that date business began on the piece of line from Chaudiere Junction, practically Quebec City, to St. Thomas, Que. The next important addition to the miles. ant addition to the mileage took place on Oct. 27, 1856, when the first passenger train ran through from Montreal to Toronto, & in 3 weeks from that data. weeks from that date the road was opened through to Stratford. In 1857 it was deemed expedient to dispuse with Co. expedient to dispense with Government directors & that star are ors, & that step was authorized by Act of Parliament The Parliament The Parliament The Board was then re-organized & the number of directors fixed at 15, instead