

# *Great Railway Meeting*

AT ORANGEVILLE.

## SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RAILWAY COMPANY.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—It affords me very great pleasure in meeting so large and influential a deputation of the representative men of the Municipalities traversed by the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway. I had no expectation of having to appear so soon before you in my present character, and I address you therefore with some diffidence on the subject which has brought us together. I ask, by way of preliminary to the explanations which I have to make, that you bear with me while I state a few of the leading facts connected with the early history of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway. These facts will explain to a certain extent the reasons why this meeting has been convened, and will show how large was the amount of work undertaken and performed by the Company with the slender means they had at their disposal.

### THE QUESTION OF GAUGE.

Many in this meeting are well aware of the ridicule which was heaped upon the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway during its early inception on account of its "narrow gauge." The promoters of the undertaking had to fight this prejudice all the way from Toronto to Owen Sound, and from Orangeville to Teeswater. Utter failure was predicted by the opponents of the gauge and of the road, and it was prophesied that the line would never ascend the Caledon Mountains. It did, however, ascend that incline, and reached the various points which its promoters had under-