

held in August, instructing the Board "to put such portion of the work under contract as they may consider most expedient, completing the Rail-road to such point as the means at their disposal will permit," the road has been located from the St. Lawrence, through St. Hyacinthe, to a point in the Township of Acton, in the midst of the hardwood forest, fifteen miles beyond that village, and about forty-five miles from the St. Lawrence, where an almost inexhaustible supply of the best fuel will be available to the city at prices much below those which have obtained in this market for many years passed.

The Directors have also the satisfaction to state, that contracts for the grading and formation of this portion of the road have been made, with very responsible parties at rates, considerably under the estimates of the Chief Engineer, the contractors at the same time evincing their confidence in the enterprize by taking one-fourth of their payment in stock at par.

Mr. Galt, a member of the Board, now on his way to England, has been authorized to make arrangements for the iron required; and the contractors having commenced operations near the Rouville Mountain a month ago, and the country through which the road leads being exceedingly favourable, the Directors fully expect, that this portion of the undertaking will be completed and opened to the public in the course of next year.

It is usual to mark the commencement of great undertakings by some public demonstration, which the season of the year prevented on this occasion: it would have exceeded the bounds of any moderate expenditure to make the necessary arrangements on the ground, for the shelter and accommodation of the large number of persons who would have desired to be present, and under these circumstances the Directors thought it preferable to defer the ceremony until the opening of the road, when it will be their pleasing duty to reciprocate the hospitality extended to the members of this corporation by their friends in Portland.