

## ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

In the month of February, 1847, public attention was first called to the necessity of establishing a telegraph line between Bytown and Montreal, by Mr. Barry, who had delivered two or three lectures on the subject. A joint stock company was subsequently organized, and the contract was given to a very energetic person, the late John A. Torney. The first telegraphic despatch reached Bytown on the 9th of March, 1850, the subject of which was the Sherbrook election. About a fortnight afterwards, a reward was offered for the detection of the person or persons who had cut down several of the poles in the Township of Gumberland. "A new line of telegraph, from Bytown to Prescott, under the direction of the Canada Grand Trunk Telegraph Company, was commenced about the end of the year 1853, but its course and objectionable construction having given umbrage to the Directors of the Bytown and Prescott Railway Company, trouble and litigation ensued."\* The wires were cut in sundry places, and left lying on the road, and it was no uncommon thing to see farmers coming to town, having their loading secured with portions of the cut wire. Matters, however, were soon adjusted, and both lines are now in successful operation.

## RAILROADS.

On the 11th January, 1851, a company was organised for carrying into operation the Bytown and Prescott Railroad, the ground for which was broken on the 9th October of the same year, after which a dinner took place at Doran's Hotel. The laying of the track was commenced on the 9th April, 1854, and the welcome whistle of the first rail-car was heard at five o'clock on the 20th December, 1854. It is most cheering to know that this great undertaking, which was successfully carried through in the face of unparalleled obstacles, is likely ere long to remunerate the stock-holders. This road is universally acknowledged to be one of the smoothest, and, in construction, one of the best and safest on the continent; and the merit of this great enterprise is mainly due to the untiring efforts of its zealous president, Robert Bell.

---

\* Vide *Ottawa Citizen*, February 4th and 25th, 1854.