

PUBLIC MEN AND PUBLIC LIFE IN CANADA

Jackson and Betts, accompanied by Robert Stephenson, M.P., the famous engineer, visited Canada in 1853, to complete the arrangements, and a suggestive sidelight is thrown on the condition of the country at that time by the memorable trip they made through the western peninsula, accompanied by a number of leading Canadian politicians and railway magnates, to spy out the land and, if possible, discover the best route for the proposed undertaking.

This party proved a large and imposing one. Among the more distinguished gentlemen who composed it were Robert Stephenson, M.P., William Jackson, M.P., W. L. Betts, M.P., Hon. Francis Hincks, Chancellor Blake, Hon. J. S. Ross, Hon. H. H. Killaly, Mr. A. M. Ross, Chief Engineer of the proposed railroad, and Mr. Walter Shanly, Engineer of the Toronto and Sarnia section. According to the newspapers of that day it took three four-horse coaches and a baggage waggon to carry them and their effects.* They passed Galt on the afternoon of Sunday, the 28th August, on their way from Guelph to Paris, whence they proceeded by way of Woodstock, London and Chatham to the western boundary.

When travelling they made an imposing cavalcade, accompanied as they often were by local celebrities

* "On Sunday morning a large party of honourable and official gentlemen in the direction of railroad affairs passed through Guelph *en route* to Detroit, by way of Paris, London and Chatham. The *convoy* consisted of three four-horse coaches and a baggage waggon."—*Guelph Herald*, September, 1853.