

have the extreme gratification of receiving Your Excellency and the Countess of Elgin, on the auspicious occasion of breaking ground for the first Railroad from Toronto. We thank Your Excellency and your noble Countess, for having condescended to honour with your presence this hopeful commencement of a very important undertaking, and we respectfully solicit that Your Excellencies may be pleased to evince your good will for its success by turning "the first sod" of the work.

The Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad Union Company was incorporated by Act of the Provincial Parliament in 1849, the Royal assent to it having been promulgated by Proclamation of Your Excellency, on the 29th August of that year. The Board of Directors have since been most assiduous in their endeavours to carry into practical operation the beneficial objects of the Act, and they have solid grounds of congratulation in the fortunate circumstance of "the first sod" being now about to be turned by personages so exalted as Your Excellency and Lady Elgin. The work now commencing is one of great importance, not only to this city and the surrounding neighbourhood, but also to the whole Province, and the country lying between the South shore of Lake Ontario and the Atlantic Ocean. It will afford the shortest and most expeditious route from the Atlantic cities of the United States to the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, and it cannot fail to command an amount of business commensurate with the great advantages it offers. This must have a material influence on the city and the country through which the road will pass. The benefits of such an influx of traffic will doubtless be extensively diffused. But, apart from this, the local business of the Road, and the benefits to be conferred thereby, are of themselves sufficient to warrant the most sanguine anticipations of success. The city and country are rapidly increasing in population and material resources. This work will give an impetus to improvements beyond anything that has yet been tried, and we have cause of thankfulness, that the extent and fertility of the country, and the favorable position of the city, with her expansive harbour open to commerce the whole year round, offer resources for profitable enterprise to which it would be difficult at present to assign a limit. The