

# Canadian Illustrated News

Vol. I.—No. 7.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1869.

[SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.  
\$4 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.]

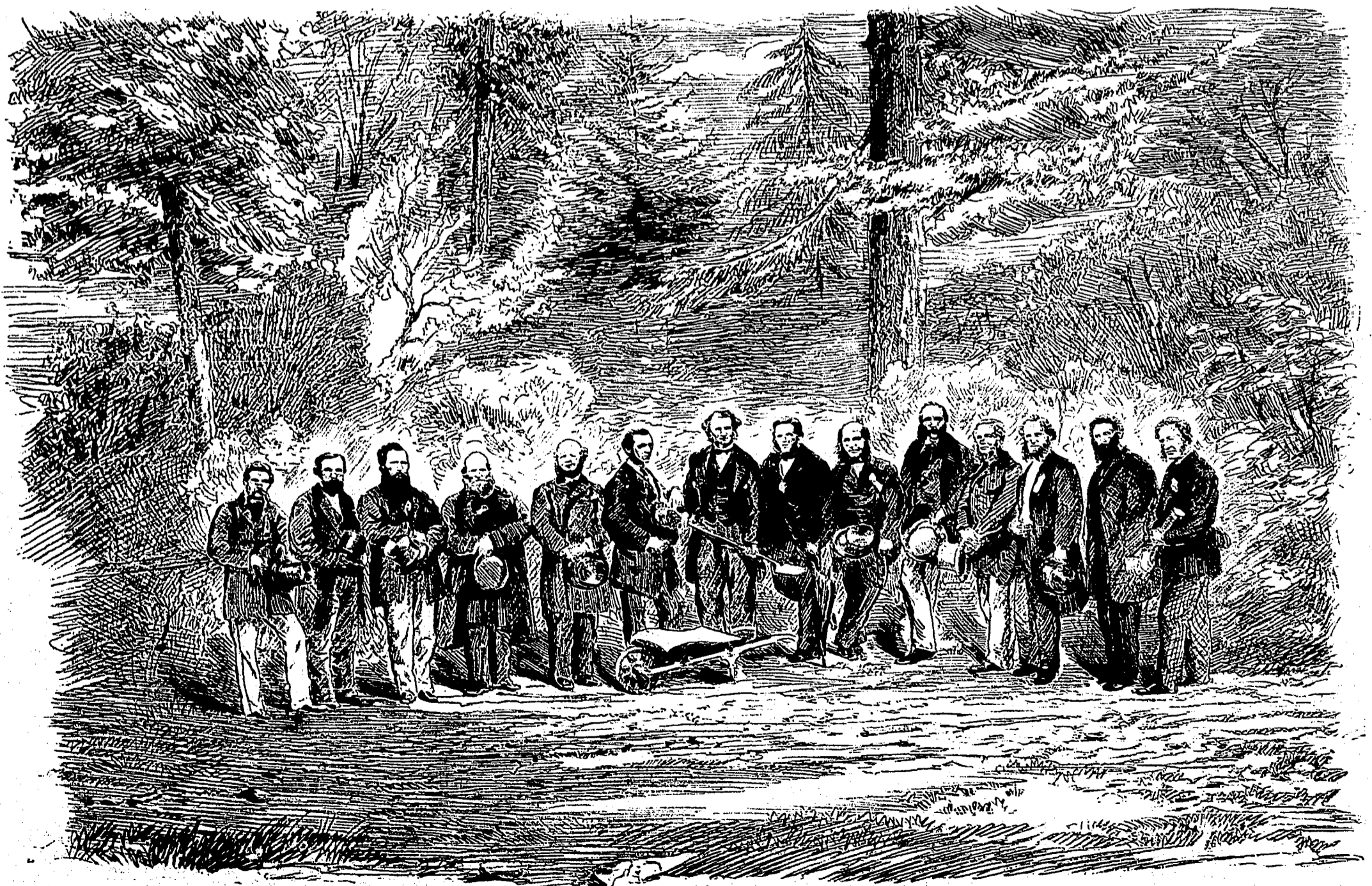
## TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY—TURNING THE FIRST SOD.

Railway enterprise, which was at one time supposed to have exhausted itself in Canada for twenty-five years at least has undergone complete recuperation in much less than half the time. The zeal of the merchants of Toronto and Hamilton, in seconding the desires of the intelligent settlers in the back townships has led to this revival: both business men and farmers discover that the railway is an advantage to them in their respective callings and a generous cooperation between town and country, between corporate and individual liberality, has resulted in putting the realization of several local railway projects beyond the risk of failure. Among these is the Toronto and Nipissing Railway, narrow gauge, leading back from the Capital of Ontario, northward to and through the new townships, with perhaps the intention of her after pushing its way through to the North-West Territory, or at least forming a profitable connection with North-West travel.

On the 16th Oct., at Cannington, in the Co. of York, the

ceremony of cutting the first sod, by the Premier of Ontario, took place in the presence of a large concourse of railway men, municipal councillors and others. On the morning of the previous day a large party left Toronto for Cannington. The party consisted of the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, Mr. R. W. Elliot, the President of the T. & N. Railroad Company, Messrs. W. F. McMaster, J. E. Smith, George Laidlaw, Directors—Mr. Graham, the Secretary, Mr. Leys, the Solicitor of the Company, Hon. G. W. Allan, Hon. M. C. Cameron, Hon. J. B. Ranson, the Mayor of Toronto, Alderman Baxter, Hon. Mr. McMurrich Alderman Boulton, Mr. Spratt, Chairman of the Corn Exchange, N. Barnhart, A. Crooks, Wragge, Nelson, Millar, McCord, Lawrence, of Rhode Island, Ewing, Kennedy, C. Smith and a few other gentlemen. Proceeding by railway to Be-R Ewart, thence by steamer to Beaverton, and by carriage to Cannington, where the party was welcomed in the evening with music and other marks of rejoicing. On the morning of Saturday, 16th, the Council of the Township of Brock met to attend the ceremony. A procession was formed to go to the spot chosen, and at about a quarter of a mile from the main

street of the village, a very pretty triumphal arch, bearing the inscription:—"Welcome to the President and Directors of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway," showed that here was the entrance to the scene of the inauguration. A road from this arch led through a thick wood, and at a few hundred yards from the main road a pretty little glade had been found in which the preparations for cutting the sod had been made. A rope ring had been stretched round the borders of the opening, at one side of which a platform had been erected. By the time the Attorney-General, with the other visitors, had reached the spot, a crowd numbering about 700 persons had assembled, though this number was speedily afterwards increased. A neat little hand-barrow of maple wood, with a spade to match; the former manufactured by Jaques & Hay, and the latter by Ellis, of Toronto, were provided for the purpose. On the handle of the spade the following inscription was engraved on silver:—"Presented to the Hon. J. Sandfield Macdonald, Q. C., on the occasion of his turning the first sod of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway, at Cannington, on the 16th Oct., 1869." Having been shown the sod which he was to turn, the



TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY.—TURNING THE FIRST SOD.