

Buffalo, Brantford & Goderich Railway.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Directors, in compliance with the resolution of the last annual meeting, made timely application to the Provincial Parliament for a charter. Having ascertained the views of the shareholders to be very generally favorable to an extension of their road, the application was made to embrace a direct line of railway across the entire peninsula from the Niagara River to Goderich, on Lake Huron. A preliminary survey made under the direction of their Chief Engineer, and since verified by accurate and detailed examinations, demonstrated the practicability of constructing an extension which would be economical in its first cost and effective by its easy grades and curves. With a climate remarkable for healthfulness and of unsurpassed capabilities as an agricultural region, the intermediate country combines all the elements for sustaining a prosperous agricultural and manufacturing people. Judging from the effects of railroads upon similar countries, the Directors felt a lively confidence that when opened to a market by railway, it would rapidly become wealthy and prosperous. Nor could they underrate the advantages of transforming the original undertaking into a through independent line, establishing a short and safe route to the mineral regions of the north and south shores of Lake Superior, which are now rapidly rising into importance, and to the north-western States and Territories of the Union. With no apprehension of failure, the Directors were further strengthened in their resolution by the confidence and enterprise manifested by the people. The united counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce, possessing one and a quarter million pounds currency ratable property, came readily