

its superior advantages will command a preference, but at the same time it is very generally admitted, that all the Railways and Canals that can be constructed across and along the Canadian Western Peninsula for the next twenty years, will scarcely afford sufficient accommodation for the gigantic increase of the commerce of the "Great West." Some statistics with respect to the increase of the Western trade during the past few years, are given in the supplement to this Report. A Branch Line constructed from Penetanguishene on Lake Huron, provided a Harbour can be constructed there, passing near Durham, to join the Central Line in the Township of Proton, about sixty miles in length, and one hundred and twenty miles from Toronto, would secure a large additional amount of Local and through traffic. A careful enquiry and examination will satisfy the residents of the County of Bruce, that the construction of this Branch Line intersecting their County, would be of greater benefit to them, than any other line that could be constructed, considering their desire as British subjects should be, by every means in their power, to secure the traffic through this Province to the Grand Trunk Railway, which may correctly be termed a national undertaking, in the success of which every Canadian ought to be deeply interested.

#### COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE TO THE CITY OF TORONTO.

The last and decidedly the most important matter for the consideration of the citizens of Toronto, is, "the advantage, if any, to the City of Toronto in a Commercial view, over the proposed North-west Railway from Guelph to Saugeen, with a branch to Owen Sound." I have carefully perused the Report of Sandford Fleming, Esq., Engineer of the North-west Railway; also the Report of the Committee on Railroads to the City Council.

As the latter report is evidently an echo of the former, I would direct your attention to a few points which appear to me to deserve particular consideration. The Report of the Committee states—"They are of opinion that the construction of