

DAWN OF THE RAILROAD ERA

traffic on the 27th January, 1854, and the large expenditure of capital upon the work, the influx of engineers and railway officials, and the increased demand for labour, made up a new experience for the Province and had a wonderfully inspiring effect.

The Grand Trunk Railway, a still more ambitious project, was also under construction at this time. The Hon. Francis Hincks, Premier of Canada, visited Great Britain early in 1852 with the Hon. E. B. Chandler, of New Brunswick, in the hope of promoting the construction of the Inter-colonial Railway at that time. Failing to enlist the support of the Imperial Government, he took up the construction of a trunk line through Canada, and conducted, if he did not conclude, arrangements with the eminent English contractors, Messrs. Peto, Jackson, Brassey and Betts, for the construction of the Grand Trunk road. The company was incorporated the same year. Parliament approved of a government guarantee being given to the extent of about £2,500 per mile, to be paid in the proportion of \$160,000, as each £100,000 was expended upon the line.* Messrs.



HON. FRANCIS HINCKS

* "Canadian Year-Book," 1894, page 210.