

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
PROVINCE OF CANADA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble petition of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company,

SHEWETH :

I. That prior to the incorporation of your petitioners, the Railway of your petitioners was owned by the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway Company, which had in a very imperfect manner constructed that part of the said Railway extending from Fort Erie to Paris, a distance of eighty-two miles, so that the same had been opened and used for traffic for about two years, and which had also partly graded the rest of the said Railway, extending from Paris to Goderich, a distance of seventy-six miles, but which, in 1854, became so embarrassed and involved that all works on the said Railway were stopped, and the Railway was, in the Autumn of 1855, entirely closed; the Railway and property being encumbered by judgments and executions to upwards of eighty thousand pounds (exclusive of the Bonded Mortgage debt of upwards of five hundred thousand pounds sterling) and the Company being hopelessly bankrupt.

II. That in this state of the affairs of the said Company, through the influence and by the persuasion of certain gentlemen residing in the Huron tract, and therefore on public as well as private grounds, deeply interested in the final completion and successful working of the said Railway, and certain others who, as it has since turned out, were creditors of the old Company, and therefore, on personal grounds, extremely desirous that a new Company should be formed which would purchase the said Railway and pay off the liabilities hanging over it. A provisional Company was inaugurated in the City of London, England, and a provisional agreement entered into between them and the said first mentioned Company, for the purchase of the said Railway and property on the terms set forth in said agreement, (which is now appended to and forms part of the Act incorporating your petitioners hereinafter mentioned, to which your Petitioners beg leave to refer) and the capital stock, amounting to five hundred thousand pounds sterling, estimated to be amply sufficient to pay the purchase money of the said Railway, (exclusive of the said bonded mortgage debt of five hundred thousand pounds) and to complete the said line of Railway from the City of Buffalo to the waters of Lake Huron, was subscribed and taken up.

III. That afterwards, on the sixteenth day of May, 1856, by an Act of the Parliament of this Province, 19th Victoria, chapter 21, your petitioners (the Provisional Company aforesaid) became an incorporated Company, under the name of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company, and after many difficulties in the arrangement and settlement of the numerous and heavy debts of the old Company, forming charges and liens on the said Railway and property, your petitioners did, on the twenty-eighth day of June, 1856, under the said Act and agreement, take possession of the said Railway and property, and at once set about repairing the said Railway from Fort Erie to Paris, (it being then in such a state as to require to be almost made anew) and opened it for traffic and business in the month of November following. The construction and completion of that section of the Railway from Paris to Stratford was pushed forward with such vigor that it was opened for traffic and business in the month of December of the same year, and the construction of that section thereof from Stratford to Goderich was in like manner so accelerated that it was opened for traffic and business on the twenty-eighth day of June, 1858, and the entire length of the said Railway has, ever since the same was opened, been successfully worked and kept in operation.