

route between Montreal and Boston. This truth was incontrovertibly established, by thorough and impartial preliminary examinations. But in that day railroad enterprise was unknown in Canada, and the concentration of every possible influence was found barely equal to the necessities of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic road. It was natural, therefore, that when that road was diverted from the direct line originally contemplated, the project of opening up the fine country it would have traversed should fall into temporary embarrassments. The energies of our business men, our capitalists and our Government, were absorbed in promoting the success of the popular scheme, and it was only left the friends of the Stanstead and Shefford line to wait patiently till time should demonstrate the remarkable feasibility of their route, and re-enlist influences sufficient to bring its claims again favorably and prominently before the country.

Thus the enterprise, although in abeyance, was never abandoned; and in the year 1853 a charter was procured for the construction of a railroad from the St. Lawrence River, in the general direction of Chambly, Shefford and the Outlet of Lake Memphremagog, to the Province Line in Stanstead. The Provisional Directors appointed by the Act of Incorporation commenced their labors immediately. Preliminary examinations and surveys of the proposed route were made, and finally a conference was held at Stanstead in the summer of 1853, composed of gentlemen from Boston, Montreal and the intermediate places, interested in the construction of a railroad from Montreal to that point on the Boundary Line where it was intended the Passumpsic Extension should terminate.

The Capital Stock of the Company had been fixed at \$3,000,000, and the Provisional Directors were of opinion that so soon as one-third of this amount could be *bona fide* subscribed, the Company might organize, and the works commence with every prospect of successful prosecution. It was agreed by gentlemen composing the Stanstead Conference, and through whom the whole country along the line was represented, that \$400,000 should be raised in