

The expenses attending the operating of railways must necessarily vary according to the description of business, and the more or less favorable gradients of the line. In the case of the Hamilton and Port Dover Railway, the great bulk of the freight will be moved over the down grade towards Lake Ontario. On the New York and Erie line 77 per cent of the freight goes East, against 23 going West. It may therefore be assumed that the Hamilton and Port Dover line will be an economical one to operate, and that the working expenses and wear and tear of machinery and permanent way together, will at no time exceed 55 per cent of the gross receipts. The arguments which have been adduced, and which the Directors trust have been presented in a perfectly intelligible form, must afford convincing evidence that it will prove not only profitable as an investment, but of incalculable value to the interests of this City and all the localities interested.

The Directors closed their report last year with an allusion to the effects produced upon the value of Real Estate in this City, by the opening of the Great Western Railway. It will no doubt be highly gratifying to the friends of our Railway interests to learn that, the increase in the assessed value of property for the last year has been fairly maintained, although the recent assessment has been made during a period of unusual monetary pressure.

TABLE.

Shewing the assessed annual value of property in the City of Hamilton, before the commencement and since the opening of the Great Western Railway, and shewing also the relative increase.

1849. (Before Great Western Railway was commenced),	£ 60,725
1850. do do	61,574
Increase in one year	850
1854. (Year of the opening),	157,000
1855. (After Great Western was opened one year),	190,000
Increase in one year	37,000
1856. (Assessment just taken),	220,000
Increase over 1855.	£ 30,000

It will be seen by the above that the ratio of increase in the assessed annual value of the City from 1849 to 1850 was about one per cent, whilst from 1854 to 1855 it was 22, from 1855 to 1856 the increase has been 16, and from 1849 to 1856 no less than 360 per cent. As the annual value is computed at the rate of 6 per cent on the gross assessed value, it will be seen that, the increase of last year on the *annual* value of real estate in Hamilton, (being £30,000,) represents an increase on the actual value, of £500,000, a sum estimated to be sufficient to build and equip the whole of the Hamilton and Port Dover Railway. The £220,000 (assessment for this year,) represents about £3,666,000 as the gross assessed value for the whole City,