

To the Honourable, the Minister of Railways, and Members of the Senate and House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada :—

The Erie and Huron Railway Company beg to present a statement of their position and affairs.

In the year 1872 this Company was chartered by the Ontario Government to build a Line of Railway from the Rond Eau, a Government Harbour of Refuge on Lake Erie to the Town of Sarnia, at the foot of Lake Huron, *via* the Towns of Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, and Wallaceburg, and the Villages of Port Lambton, Port Sombra, Cartwright, Mooretown, and Corruna, on the River St. Clair, to Port Sarnia; with a Branch from the Town of Dresden through the Township of Dawn, and the Village of Oil Springs to Oil City on the Canada Southern Railway. See map.

A Bonus of \$155,000 was voted, in aid of the scheme, by the County of Kent, and another Bonus of \$110,000 was also voted by the County of Lambton. Costly and prolonged Litigation to set aside these Bonuses followed on a suit brought by a ratepayer, and the Company was thus prevented from carrying on its scheme until the year 1878, when, having gained its case, the Directors made an agreement with a prominent contractor for the building of their Road through the County of Kent only, the Bonus of \$110,000 from the County of Lambton having expired, through lapse of time lost in Litigation.

In 1879 they were obliged to abandon the work temporarily for want of funds to carry on their contract.

In 1881 the Ontario Government passed an Act for their relief, by making the County of Kent Bonus payable when the Line was built to Wallaceburg and voting a subsidy of \$2,000 a mile to the Company, payable when finished to that point.

In 1882, further Bonuses having been voted to the extent of \$70,000 by the Towns of Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, and Wallaceburg, the Company entered into another contract for the completion and equipment of that portion of the Line, and on the 30th September, 1883, that section of the Road from Rond Eau to Wallaceburg, a distance of  $41\frac{1}{2}$  miles, was built in a first class manner with steel rails and iron bridges, together with wharves and piers at Rond Eau and Wallaceburg, and all necessary