

THE S. E. T. AND KENNEBEC RAILWAY.
BEC RR.

On Thursday the 2nd ult., the Sherbrooke Eastern Townships & Kennebec Railway was inaugurated with the customary ceremonies attendant on laying the first rail and driving the first spike. This road runs from the active and ambitious town of Sherbrooke where the inauguration took place, in a north easterly direction towards Quebec. It will open up a large extent of fertile country, and is destined one day to become a great highway of travel and traffic between the New England States and the Lower St. Lawrence.

The programme began at 4 p.m. with an address from the Vice-President of the road, R. D. Morkill, Esq., Mayor of Sherbrooke, expressive of the pleasure of the Directors at the success with which the work had been pushed, and of their hope that its first section of 37 miles would soon be open. Hon. Mr. Justice Doherty, at the Vice-President's invitation, drove the first spike amid the cheers of the bystanders. Hon. Edward Hale, M.L.C., E. T. Brooks, M. P., Lieut.-Col. King and the Vice-President each drove a spike, and a bottle of champagne was broken on the rail in good old style.

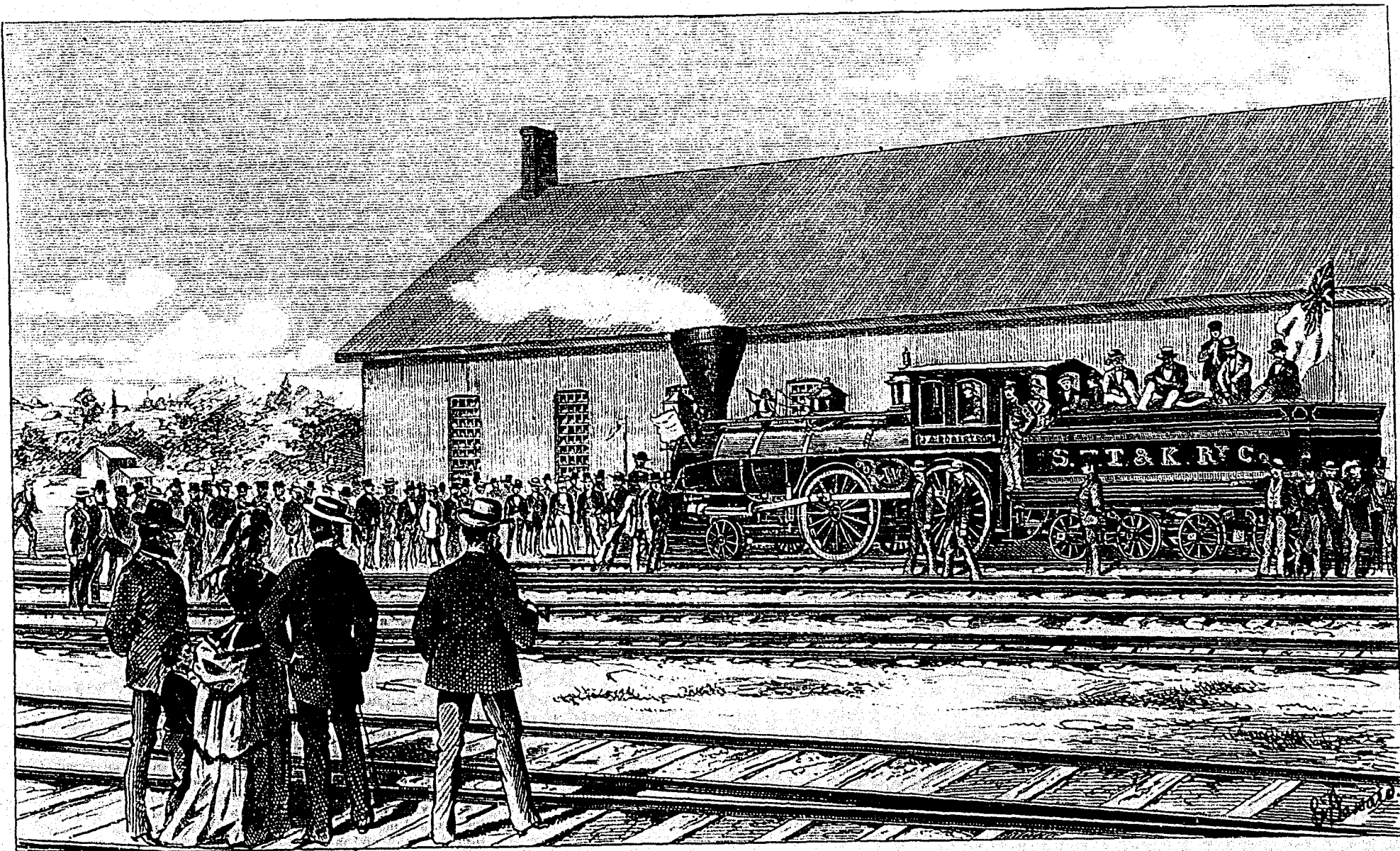
His Honour Mr. Justice Doherty being called upon for an address, said that he was much pleased with this his first experience of actual, physical railroad-marking. He was happy to find his lot cast amid a community alive with the spirit of enterprise and progress. The public would reap a plentiful harvest from every great enterprise of this nature and the company had his heartiest wishes for their success. Hon. Mr. Hale alluded to the great change in the appearance of the country during the last 40 years, and to the zeal and energy shown by the promoters of



THE HON. J. G. ROBERTSON, PRESIDENT OF THE S. E. T. & K. RR.

this road. They should not be content with their first success, but go on until they had driven the last spike by the shores of the St. Lawrence. Hon. E. T. Brooks, Esq., M. P., said he had long since become a believer in the future of the railroad. The S. E. T. & K. Railway was but one in the projected network of railroads that would one day make Sherbrooke the great manufacturing and commercial centre of the Eastern Townships. These speeches were received with loud cheers.

The new engine, the "J. G. Robertson," named after the Hon. Treasurer of Quebec and President of the road, was then run on a trial trip over the rails of the Grand Trunk between Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, a distance of three miles. A company of about eighty guests, availed themselves of the invitation to make this trip. On their return, they sat down to a n impromptu champagne lunch at the Sherbrooke House, to which they had been invited by its hospitable proprietor Mr. W. Chamberlin. Mr. Brooks, taking the chair proposed the toast of "the Directors," coupling with it the name of Mr. Morkill, the Vice-Pres., who replied, in suitable terms, and gave in reply "the President," Hon. J. G. C. Robertson, which was received with loud cheers. To the toast of "the contractors," Mr. James Woodward replied and stated that the road would be completed to Weedon by autumn. "The Bar," called forth a happy response from W. Felton, Esq., Q.C. "The Press" as the Fourth Estate, was not forgotten, and suitable replies were made by Mr. Belanger, of *Le Pionnier*, and Mr. J. Calder, for the *Sherbrooke Gazette*. The health of Mr. Chamberlin, the lord of the feast, was drunk with enthusiasm. Lieut.-Col. King, Mr. J. A. Camirand and Mr. F. Boven favoured the company with songs. At 6:30 p.m. the proceedings closed with the usual loyal demonstrations.



OPENING OF THE SOUTH EASTERN TOWNSHIPS & KENNEBEC RR. AT SHERBROOKE, JULY 2.