

Town of Lindsay, as well as to the townships and to the Land company, which reposed confidence in promises and pledges most lavishly made. The ratepayers of the Town of Lindsay also feel that the Government of Ontario have not carried out what was believed to be their virtual pledges made to complete the said road, but have instead actually aided and encouraged a rival road from the village of Gravenhurst to the Ottawa river, even though the latter road would have been seventeen miles longer from the Canada Pacific line of railroad then given to Toronto, and forty-five miles longer to Lake Ontario than the Victoria railroad would be, and therefore they claim to be fairly and justly entitled to redress for the loss sustained by them in consequence of the non-completion of the said Victoria railroad, according to the original intention.

ITS EARLY HISTORY

The following short history of the Victoria railroad, together with an abstract of the several speeches of some of the principal projectors of the Victoria railroad containing pledges and promises, and of the Provincial Premier and other Members of the Ontario Government, containing what was considered virtual guarantees that the said road would and should be completed to the Ottawa river, will prove that the ratepayers of Lindsay as well as other municipalities who gave bonuses to the said road, are not without just cause of complaint.

Early in the year 1872 a railroad company was formed in Toronto, composed of the following gentlemen:—George Laidlaw, John Turner, Geo. Stephen, Wm. Thompson, John Burns, H. P. Dwight, John Morrison, C. W. Bunting, R. W. Ramsay, R. W. Elliott, J. C. Fitch, Chas. J. Campbell and Alex. J. Cattenach. Mr. Laidlaw was president, Mr. Campbell vice-president, and Mr. A. McNabb, secretary. In the beginning of April, 1874, Mr. Laidlaw and two or three

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