

# Montreal News

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## OPENING OF THE S. E. T. & K. RAILROAD.

The formal opening of the Sherbrooke, Eastern Townships and Kennebec Railroad took place Thursday, the 22nd ult. The celebration of the event took the form of an excursion from Sherbrooke to Lothrop's, in Westbury, a distance of fourteen miles, that being the length of road completed at the time. Some thousand persons took part in the excursion, filling ten cars, of which two were of the rolling stock of the new road. On arriving at their destination the party left the train and partook of refreshments. On the way back the train was stopped at Ascot Corners, where speeches were delivered by the Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON, Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, and a number of other guests.

When completed this line of railroad will give to Sherbrooke direct communication with Quebec by means of a connection, somewhere on the Chaudiere River, with the Levis and Kennebec line

now in course of construction, fifty miles of which will be opened some time next month.

On the evening of the day of the opening a banquet was held in the Town Hall at Sherbrooke in honour of the Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON, whose constituents had seized the occasion of the railway celebration to tender him this compliment. The hall was tastily decorated for the occasion and tables were laid for the accommodation of two hundred and fifty guests. A very fair idea of the appearance of the room may be gathered from the illustration on another page. Mr. E. T. BROOKS, M.P., presided, having on his right the guest of the evening, and on his left Hon. Mr. MALHOTR. The speech of the evening was that delivered by the Provincial Treasurer, in which he explained the railway policy of the Government.

### RAILWAY EXTENSION.

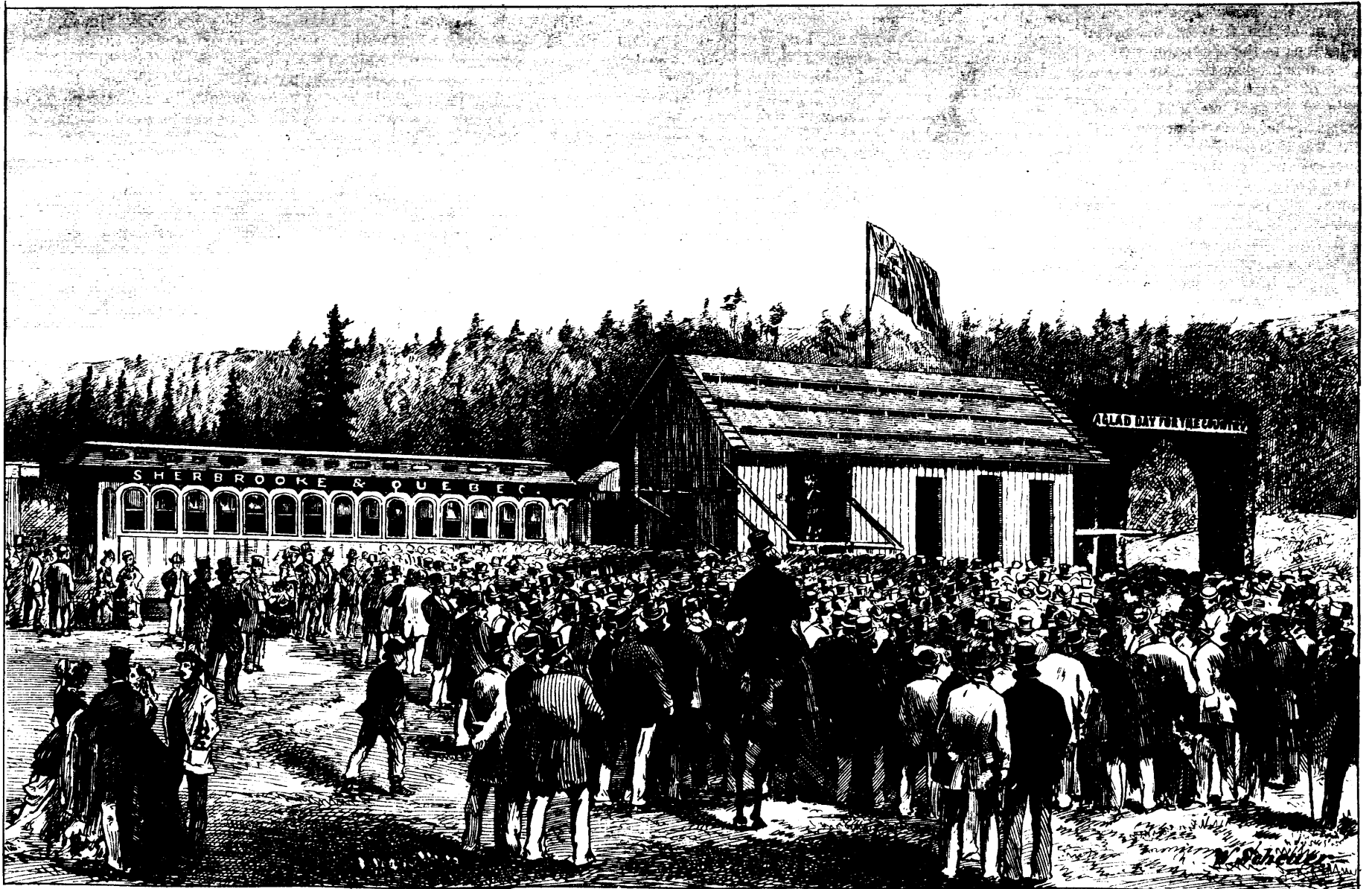
In connection with our Sherbrooke illustrations this week, it may not be amiss

to refer more particularly to the railway policy of the Quebec Government, which Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON explained fully in his banquet speech. There can be no manner of doubt to any one who has followed the progress of the country during the last six or seven years, that this railway policy has accomplished wonders. As it has been enthusiastically supported by men of all parties, the credit for the same may be given to the whole Province.

The Hon. Treasurer stated that the first step taken by the Government was a promise of one hundred and fifty dollars a mile to railways annually for twenty years. But this measure was soon found to be in a great measure unsatisfactory. Advantage was then taken of a clause of the law which was open to doubt, to capitalize the annual payment, and the whole sum was given to the railways at the time they were doing their work, and when one dollar was worth two afterward. Later on, a fuller railway scheme was enacted. In pursuance thereof there was given to the

North Shore, from Quebec to Montreal, and to the Northern Colonization, from Montreal to Aylmer, a subsidy of two millions of dollars, besides grants of land. Then six hundred and twenty five additional miles of various lines were subsidized, at two thousand five hundred dollars a mile. Furthermore, land grants or money were given as the railways thought preferable. In this way, aid to railways to the extent of five or six millions of dollars has been extended.

The results of this liberal policy will be amply apparent to every one. The North Shore road from Quebec to Montreal is well advanced, and the same may be said in regard to the Northern Colonization road from Montreal to Aylmer. The Government cannot build these roads, but it can assist people in building them, and thus opening out the country. We are further assured that the policy thus inaugurated will be continued with a vigour proportionate to the needs of the country and the condition of the exchequer



OPENING OF THE S. E. T. & K. RR. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BLANCHARD OF SHERBROOKE.