

Town of Hamilton, at the head of the navigation of Lake Ontario, and the centre of the most populous and best cultivated portions of the Province, intersecting and contiguous to eight Districts, with numerous Towns and Villages, possessing a population of about 250,000, great agricultural and manufacturing interests, which at once guarantees a large way traffic.

Company first chartered in 1834.

The Company was first chartered in 1834, and in 1837 the Government was so satisfied of its utility as a Provincial Work, that it authorized the loan of £200,000 to assist in its construction; but the unfortunate political events that soon after occurred, prevented the Company taking active steps in the business, and the Charter at length became null, until renewed under its present form by the last Session of Parliament.

Government loaned £200,000

In 1836, a Survey of the route from Hamilton to the Detroit River was made by Mr. Elisha Johnson, a Civil Engineer of eminence in his profession, who made a most satisfactory report of the result of his investigation. This report established the fact beyond dispute, that the route selected for the road presents a most favourable surface, and that it can be constructed at as small an outlay as any road in North America, of an equal extent.

Charter renewed

Survey made.

His estimate was for a single narrow track, with a flat rail, and did not include the cost of land, locomotives, cars, station-houses, &c., and was, therefore, considered very low; but the Board are of opinion it would be adviseable, in consideration of the amount of business it would command, to construct the road in a more substantial and durable manner, and with this view have instituted enquiries into the cost of other Rail roads on this Continent, and procured an estimate, (which is given in the Appendix,) from Mr. Wm. M. Shaw, C. E. based upon Mr. Johnson's Survey, which justifies them in putting down the cost of the road, including every expense, at £4,322 per mile—making for the whole distance of 245 miles, £1,059,022, Halifax Cy.

Mr Johnson's estimate.

Mr Shaw's estimate.

Capital Stock.