

railway system extending from Portland, Me., from Riviere du Loup and Three Rivers, P.Q., also from Rouses Point, N.Y., through to Montreal, which was reached over the celebrated Victoria Bridge, designed by Robert Stephenson, erected across the St. Lawrence River, completed in 1860, and formally opened the same year for traffic by His Late Majesty, King Edward the Seventh. Thence the System extended westwardly to Sarnia, Ont., forming the chief means of communication to a scattered population settled in Quebec and Ontario.

Owing to the close proximity of the railway to the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, from Quebec to Toronto, a distance of about 500 miles, it has always been handicapped by the cheap water routes thus afforded, during the open summer season—as well as the producing territory to the south being limited by the river and lake. It is thus practically forced to draw local traffic from but one side of the main line, for a considerable portion of its mileage—although that portion extends through the more densely populated section of the country.

The first meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada was held in the city of Quebec on Monday, July 11th, 1853, at which the Board of Directors were elected and the staff of executive officers appointed as follows:—

DIRECTORS.

(In London)

THOMAS BARING, Esq., M.P.  
GEO. CARR GLYN, Esq., M.P.  
H. WOLLASTON BLAKE, Esq.  
ROBERT McCALMONT, Esq.  
KIRKMAN D. HODGSON, Esq.  
WM. THOMPSON, Esq., M.P.