

# FIRST REPORT.

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE on Railways and Telegraph Lines,—beg leave to make their FIRST REPORT:—

THE subject of Railway Extension has recently engaged much of the public attention.

The readiness with which the Municipalities in Upper Canada have come forward in aid of the several lines of Railroad designed to pass through their respective localities, and the promised assistance of Government, give every assurance of their speedy commencement. Your Committee have therefore directed their attention to the establishment of a general and uniform system for the construction and management of all Railroads hereafter to be undertaken in Canada.

On examining the Railway Charters now existing, and the various Bills referred to Your Committee, it has been found that there is no uniformity in their provisions, and that they vary as to the powers conferred and the liabilities imposed upon the several Companies.

As these great undertakings necessarily infringe much upon private rights and interests, it is of obvious importance that they should be regulated by some general law,