

Extract from Report of Mr. Shanly, recently submitted to the Directors.

"With respect to the prospects of the line it may safely be predicted, that it
"has passed through its worst days, the works that are to give vitality to its
"traffic are now in such a condition of rapid progress as to warrant our looking
"forward with some degree of confidence to their completion next year, the con-
"summation of which now depends on the proprietors alone to determine. The
"success of the Grand Trunk Railway, as a commercial enterprise, is chiefly
"dependent on its continuity as a connecting link between the Atlantic coast and
"the far West. Until, therefore, the Victoria Bridge shall have been completed
"and brought into use, and our extension to Detroit perfected, it may be truly
"said that the ability of this great enterprise to produce the results that have
"been promised has never yet been put to the test. Notwithstanding the feel-
"ing which I confidently entertain of the success of the enterprise, too great
"results must not however be counted upon as the immediate fruits of the finish-
"ing of the line. All great undertakings require time for their development,
"and in our case it should be remembered that not only have we many compet-
"ing and old established channels of trade to contend against, but that all of
"these, however rival to one another, are linked in one common cause against
"us by having for their Atlantic Terminus one of the greatest commercial cities
"of the world. The growth of our traffic may not at first be such as to satisfy
"the expectations of those at a distance, but it will be both certain and healthy
"and sure to advance in rapid progression when once the stream of commerce
"has fairly found its way into the direct and uninterrupted channel that we are
"preparing for it."