

RECOLLECTIONS OF BYTOWN

Some incidents in the history of
Ottawa that have had an influence on
its growth and prosperity, in which the
writer bore a part. x x x

Bytown and Prescott Railway

The denizens had long recognized that the isolation of Bytown was a serious disadvantage. In winter it was almost entirely shut off from all other parts of the Province, being united only with Prescott by a stage line, making one trip a day.

In 1850 the railway mileage in Canada was very limited; the first railway to be constructed was a line from Laprairie to St. John's, in the Province of Quebec, over which the writer took a trip in the early forties of the last century. Among the other lines completed at an early period, were The Great Western, and The Montreal and Lachine Railways.

Walking over the hill then separating upper and lower town, in the early part of the year 1850, the writer met the late Edward McGillivray, and a conversation arose on the necessity for an outlet by rail to connect the town with the contemplated trunk line which was to unite Montreal and Toronto. Mr. McGillivray suggested that the writer should take the necessary steps towards obtaining a charter. The suggestion was acted upon and a petition prepared asking for an Act incorporating a company to construct a railway between Bytown and Prescott.