

to be provided from the sale of bonds. At that time, however, they had full faith that as soon as they had a complete road they would have no difficulty in floating the Company's bonds. The contractors for the rails, and for the grading and execution of the Grey works, the Company knew, would have been only too glad to have been released from their several losing contracts. Either broken pledges in the county of Grey, following on the lapsing of the contracts, and the stoppage of the works, had to be faced, or the building of the line had to be boldly pushed on. It was decided to push on, but unfortunately for the contractors, and also unfortunately for the Company, the sanguine hopes which the Directors entertained of raising money were dashed to the ground. It is satisfactory, however, to know that heavy as were the losses the Company had to sustain, all the promises to the Municipalities have been faithfully kept to the letter. Considering the many agitations, and the failures which have so often taken place in trying to build a railway from Toronto to Owen Sound, I must say I think the Board is to be highly congratulated on the eminent success which they attained. The only error and the only great mistake which I am prepared to acknowledge in connection with the building of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway is, that work was not stopped when it was found that the Company's funds were short. My excuse for that mistake is, that by not so doing the valuable iron contract which we had secured, and upon which a loss of \$150,000 would have been sustained if it had been cancelled, also the other valuable contracts on hand, were saved to the Company. Gentlemen, you have to-day the road, and those contractors and others who built it lost their money.

#### CLAIMS AGAINST THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

It has always been felt that the Company has a strong claim for aid from the Ontario Government, under the Railway Aid Act, for that portion of the line altogether unaided between Weston and Orangeville. Very many of you who attended with me as a deputation to wait upon the Ontario Government last autumn, to urge the claims of the road, are aware of the position I then took on the subject of a Government grant for that section. I then explained that the iron and the rolling stock of