



ONE OF THE FIRST CANADIAN RAILWAY TRAINS

Photographed from an original scrip of the C. & St. L. Road, in the possession of Mr. Alexander Manson, of Lachine. This engraving was made in 1837. There are two other engravings in existence of these first trains, with slight differences in the details.

PASSENGER CARRIAGES PAST AND PRESENT.

By W. D. McBride.

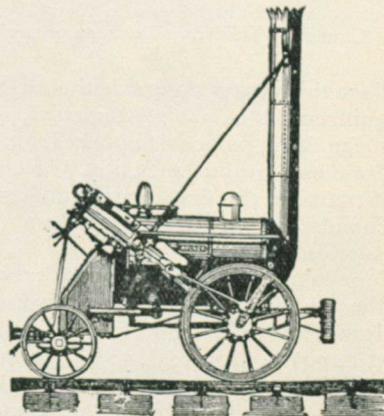
IN July last, it was sixty-five years since the first railroad in Canada was opened.

However, this statement, taken by itself, is apt to be misleading to those who know our railways only as they now exist. People are so accustomed to travel at present with a degree of safety, comfort and luxury that princes of the blood could not command a hundred years ago, or less, that it is almost impossible for them to form a proper conception of the conditions of travel that existed in the days of their fathers. This railway was a "one-horse affair," literally, at least it was a horse railway, and the trains were not as speedy, commodious and comfortable as those which now ply on our suburban electric roads.

It was not until the eventful year 1837 that steam traction was employed and the whistle of the locomotive engine was heard in the land. There scarcely can be any doubt but that it created a sensation when the shrill screech first was heard echoing through the country, though nowadays it causes no more than a passing thought, even in the remotest districts. One can imagine, however, that, with the

other stirring events which occupied men's minds in that year, it attracted less notice than would otherwise have been the case.

Besides this, fast steam power was not altogether a novelty in the country, for, twenty-eight years before, on the 3rd of November, 1809, the first steamer in Canada had made the voyage from Montreal to Quebec in the then remarkable time of sixty-six hours. This steamer which was known as the



THE "ROCKET"—(1829)