

105-1
Roads

CENTRAL PROVINCIAL ROAD, FROM BYTOWN TO LAKE HURON, Between the great Lumbering Rivers, the Mississippi and Madawaska.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES BRUCE, EARL of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Baron Elgin, K. T. Governor General of British North America,, and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.—In Council :—

The Petition of the undersigned Freeholders and Householders of the County of Lanark,—HUMBLY SHEWETH—

That the late District Council, at their last sitting, memorialized your Excellency in Council, praying for the survey of a Road, twenty miles in length, from the Township of Lavant, in the County of Lanark, in a straight direction for the Georgian Bay, on Lake Huron, and a free grant of Fifty acres of Land to be given to approved actual settlers, with a reserve of fifty more to be purchased at a future period, by those who had received the said grant—which memorial your petitioners consider to be the *voice of the People*, as done by their representatives in Council assembled, and signed and sealed by their Warden. Your petitioners have waited with respectful silence for an answer to the memorial of their Council, hoping that their prayer would receive a favourable reception, and as soon as convenient, be answered to their satisfaction. But to their great astonishment, they find that the Government have in con-

templation to open a communication from the Country of Renfrew to lake Simcoe, which will be a very circuitous route, not at all central for the United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew, being altogether too much in the rear, and crossing the Madawaska river twice. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Excellency and Council may be pleased to consider well this most momentous subject, and order some competent and disinterested persons to explore and report on the practicability of a *direct* land route, from Bytown to Mud-Lake, on the south side of the Madawaska river, and from thence to the Georgian Bay on Lake Huron.

Your petitioners would further observe, that this route would not only be the shortest, but would open a communication to a considerable tract of good land in the rear of the Counties of Frontenac, Addington, Hastings, and Peter-

borough—and that under the administration of the late Lord Metcalfe, the sum of Five Hundred Pounds was granted to explore a route from Kingston to the said tract of land, and the promise of an adequate sum to make a road to said tract, which was to be considered as an equivalent for the removal of the seat of Government. That, while splendid improvements have been made in various parts of the Province out of the *Public Purse*—while of the Million and a half which was loaned by the British Government, *Twenty Five Thousand Pounds* was expended on the Grand River and Madawaska—not one single fraction was laid out within, or for the particular benefit of the County of Lanark!

Your petitioners would also observe, that the route now prayed for would be a *Central Provincial Road*, leading from Bytown, between the great lumbering rivers, the Mississippi and

Madawaska, to the *Great Western Waters*.—That the money expended would soon be refunded by the sale of lands through which it would pass, and that it would tend in no small degree to turn the tide of immigration from the United States, being the natural inlet to a vast region of territory, which at present brings *no income* to the Provincial Treasury, or benefits any individual in the slightest degree.

In conclusion, your petitioners humbly beg leave to repeat, that the burden of their prayer is *this*, and *this only*, that the *short and central stright line* from Bytown to the eastern shore of Lake Huron may be explored previous to any outlay on any other route; and in the event of any other being considered preferable, after a fair and practical examination, your petitioners will bow with due submission—and, as in duty bound will ever pray.

SUBSCRIBER'S NAMES.

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