

REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE

OF THE

Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada,

ON THE PETITION OF THE

TORONTO AND LAKE HURON

RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1845.

THE Committee to whom was referred the petition of the TORONTO and LAKE HURON RAIL ROAD COMPANY, beg leave to represent, that by an Act of the Parliament of Upper Canada, passed on the 10th day of April, 1836, the said Company was incorporated, with power to construct an iron or wooden Rail Road or way, between the City of TORONTO and some portion of the navigable waters of LAKE HURON, within the limits of the *Home District*.

That stock to a very large amount was taken up, and the Company provided with the necessary surveys, and had plans and specifications of the entire route made and completed at a very heavy expense. The undertaking having thus been commenced, with every prospect of success, the unhappy troubles of 1837 began, and owing to the depressed state of the country consequent thereon, your petitioners state they were compelled to abandon their intentions for some time; but that within the last twelve months public attention has been called to the subject, and that it has been suggested to them that a Planked or Blocked Road would better suit the present circumstances of the country. That it would at the same time have an almost equal tendency to develop its resources. That a Rail Road would mainly depend for support on foreign travel and traffic, whilst a Planked or Blocked Road would be of immediate benefit to the districts and counties through which it might pass. That it would be much less expensive, and might be brought into use at a much earlier period.

In this view of the case, your petitioners pray for an amendment in their Act of incorporation, so as to put it in their power, if they think fit, to construct a Planked or Blocked Road, or a Rail Road in their discretion, which your Committee beg leave to recommend to the favourable consideration of your honourable House.

Your Committee beg leave also to recommend, in pursuance of the prayer of the petitioners, that the said Act may be farther amended, by leaving it in the discretion of the said Company, to fix the terminus of the proposed Road to LAKE HURON, at such point as they may deem most advisable, without confining it to the *Home District*, and that the time limited for the completion of the said Road, which will expire in less than two years, be extended to a period of four years.