

his mind to fight for his life, and I am in that position. I am here to maintain my own rights, never having asked for more, and fully as determined to have, as to assert them. It is well known to you that I undertook the construction of the Branch Railroad to Peterborough, when no one else would, and when Grand Trunk and Port Hope influences were opposed to it, and were fighting against me. The proposed branch I looked upon as a first rate project, and fought strenuously for it, expending thousands of pounds of my own money. I was determined to make the railroad or ruin myself; and at that time I knew nothing of Peterborough nor Port Hope, but I had seen the country through which the road was to pass and no one besides myself had then seen it, and I knew that a road could be cheaply built, and must ultimately pay. I went on step by step, and when the branch to Peterboro' was contemplated, I was taken over the line, through swamps, and over hills, and was told that I could not build the road for less than £5000 a mile; but I thought that £3000 would cover my outlay and agreed to take £4000, and I have built two miles more than I agreed upon out of my own pocket. I obtained the contract and went vigorously to work. The road was graded in an inconceivably short space of time, and the result was that representations were made that I could never finish the road, as the embankments and indeed the whole road being made up of slop and slush, and snow, would disappear with the spring. People went so far as to assert that £20,000 a day would not finish it within the given time, and they wanted to let me go. Even John Shuter Smith said it was all rubbish, dirt, ice, snow, mud, stumps of trees, and such like, and that it would disappear when the warm weather came; but it did not disappear, nor will it disappear. It is I whom they want to disappear, and for whom they have set a trap, which, being ever jealous of them, I perceived in time, and the trap, which was set for me, they themselves have fallen into. (laughter.) They said it would take twenty thousand