

To resume the subject of the history, merits and comparative features of the three Railway projects, I may state that as the 'Canada North-western,' now more popularly known as the "Hamilton, Guelph and Owen Sound, and Saugeen Line," has priority in date, I will take it up first. The project in its inception was, and according to the reading of the third clause of the Act of Incorporation, is designed to connect the towns of Owen Sound and Southampton with Toronto by way of Guelph and the Grand Trunk Railway; but the present promoters and advocates of this line, I think, look to Hamilton as their terminus on Lake Ontario, claiming at the same time that by the Grand Trunk Railway from Guelph they command an outlet by Toronto as well. That there is a certain advantage in the double outlet from Guelph, cannot, I think be denied, and should secure for this line favourable consideration, provided the position of the line and branch north of Mount Forest was such as to afford facilities of communication to the Counties of Grey and Bruce, as would command the required amount of pecuniary support to insure its construction.

The distance from the town of Guelph to Southampton or Saugeen by Durham, and from the same point to Owen Sound—supposing we assume the point of junction for the branch to Owen Sound to be Durham, or a short distance northwest of that Village—is severally :

First to Saugeen,	- - - - -	90 miles.
And second to Owen Sound,	- - - - -	85
Distance from Guelph to Toronto by Grand Trunk Railway,		49½
Guelph to Hamilton, via Harrisburg,	- - - - -	50
We then have Owen Sound to Toronto,	- - - - -	134½
Saugeen to Toronto,	- - - - -	139½
Saugeen to Hamilton,	- - - - -	140
Owen Sound to Hamilton,	- - - - -	135

These distances are, of course, only approximate; however, surveys and a location would be more likely to increase than reduce them.

In considering the local characteristics of these projects, I do not propose to go any further than to institute a comparison of the facilities that each would respectively afford the inhabitants of the district, they are as stated above ostensibly projected to benefit.