

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Railroad.

Toronto, February 17, 1858.

To the President and Directors of the O. S. & H. Railroad.

GENTLEMEN,—The Annual Report of the working of this road, for the year ending December 31st, 1857, together with information in detail, relative to matters connected therewith, I now have the honour of submitting to you for consideration.

At the date of my last Annual Report to your Board, negotiations were pending with parties having the requisite craft, for the formation of a Steamboat communication with upper Lake ports, to be run in connection with the road. Liberal inducements were offered to those parties to engage in this enterprise, but as the inducements were a large proportion of the through-rates, and consequently liable to be augmented or decreased, as traffic was secured or as competition affected the route, all our offers were declined. Nothing save the purchase of steamers, not altogether fitted for the service at exorbitant prices, or their charter on similar conditions could effect the formation of a through-line, and it was abandoned as impolitic, and attention at once directed to the local traffic for the support of the road. The past experience of the through-lines from New York to Chicago, and the west, by railroad and steamboat routes through the States, proves the fact that their through traffic has not been remunerative, principally attributable to the ruinous competition entered into by rival routes, thereby reducing the rates below the actual cost of transportation.