

even at as low an amount as the original estimate. They are however, of opinion, that taking into consideration the respectability and and practical knowledge of the Engineers, they see no reason to suppose that this important work cannot be accomplished for a sum not exceeding five thousand pounds per mile, and a total amount of two hundred and twenty thousand pounds. They have however, to avoid misleading your worshipful body and the citizens at large, taken as the basis of their calculations a cost of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

Your Committee are unanimously of opinion that the opening of a railroad from this City to Guelph would be of immediate and vast advantage to the interests of the city; at the same time they see no less distinctly, the injurious effect it would have on the future prosperity of the city to pledge its credit for so large an amount as one hundred thousand pounds, without a reasonable certainty of the success of the undertaking into which it is proposed to enter. Your Committee have therefore given every attention to this subject, and have availed themselves of every source of information in their power. The very short period allowed them to report, renders it impossible to give that full and explicit information they could have desired.

Canada at present, unfortunately, possesses so few railroads, and of such limited extent, that it is impossible to refer to them for data on which to found our calculations as to the probable amount of traffic and profit of the proposed line. Your committee however, have turned their attention to the railroad system of the United States, and especially to such lines as nearly as possible analogous to the proposed road to Guelph, and have taken information from official reports, and the most authentic and reliable sources. They have, in most cases, been able to procure these returns to no later date than the end of 1849; but they have no reason to suppose that the rate of increase has at all fallen off—from many other examples of successful railroad enterprise they have selected the following:

The Mansfield and Sandusky road, commencing at Sandusky City, on Lake Erie, and extending to Mansfield, in Richland County. It is not a through line and its revenue is entirely derived from passengers, and the transportation of agricultural produce and merchandize for the supply of the country on the line of road.