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REPORT Smomt BY THE

## CHIEF ENGINEER

TO Tit
DIRECTORS

OF TIIE

# 0NTARIO, SIMCOE AND HURON 

RAILROAD

## UNION COMPANY.

TORONTO:
printed by hugh scobie.
1852.

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\end{aligned}
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## bIRECTORS.

## Jursident.

The Honourable HENRY JOHN BOULTON.

## Dia- Dresident.

 CHARLES BERCZI, Esq.GEORGE BARROW, Esq, Secretary. FREDERIC CILASE CAPREOL, Esq. josepli curran morrison, Esq. bentamin holmes, Esq. Willifin Armson, Esq., Warden of Simcoo.
B. W. SMitil, Esq., Sherify of Simcoe. HUGII SCOBIE, Esq. JAMES MTTCHELL, Esig, and JOHN GEORGE BOWES, Esq., Mayor of Toronto.

Chief Engineer,--H. C. SEYMOUR, Esiv. Chief Assistant Engineer,-D. P. DeWITT, Esq. Contractors,-Messrs M. C. STORY \& Co. Solicitor,-CLARKE GAMBLE, Esq. Consulting Counsel,-P. M. VANFOUGHNET, Esq, Q.C.

TO THE

# PRESIDENTAND DIRECTORS 

OF TIIE

## ONTARIO, SIMCOE AND HURON RAILROAD UNION CONIPANY.

## Gentlemen:

I have the honour to submit the following Report of the progress made in the location and construction of the road under your charge, and some remarks as to its clams upon public consideration as a work destined to promote, to a remarkable degree, the vital interests of Camada, as, also, to be abundantly remunerative to the Shareholders.

Your road extends from the ample and safe harbour of the City of Toronto, and, connecting with Lake Simeoe at the Village of Barrie, terminates on Lake Huron, on that portion of it known as the Georgian Bay. The location is made as far north as Barrie, a distance of 63 miles, and Contractors are now at work with large forces preparing the roul-bed, and procuring timber for the superstructure of this portion of the line.

North of Barrie surveys have been made of a line terminating at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, and are now being made for a line to terminate at Penetanguishene. By the line terminating at Nottawasaga, the whole length of the road will be about 90 miles. The curvature and grades are favourable to cheap and rapid transport.

In passing from Lake Ontario, the line passes over ground 752 feet above the level of that lake; but no grades have been
alopted, or will be on any portion of the line, exceeding 53 feet per mile going south, or in the direction of the greatest tomage, and none exceeding bo fert going North; these grades aro generally short and are intereepted by levels or undulating grades of less inclination.

The eath of which the road-way is formed is, for the most part, sand or samdy loam, upon which the raibay can be cheaply maintained in perfect order, $n 0$ harge streams are crossed and the amount of wooden bridging will be less than usual.

Under the Coutract male with M. C. Story it Co., the cost of the road, finished complete with It rail of 56ills to the yard, and furnished with cars and engines, is to be $£ 6,250$ per mite. Further expenditures may be required to be made by the Company for genemal expenses, and for work and machine shops, stations, dere, not inchaded in the contract, but I deem it safe to assume that the road can be fully completed in all rempects, for the economical transaction of a luge busines, for a sun not exceeding $£ 6000$ per mile, which, for 90 miles, is $£ 630,000$.

That the business of the ron:l will pay a large interest on its cost, I have no doubt. The City of Toronto is situated upon the best harbour on Lake Ontario, and hats a population of about 27,500 , and is rapidly increasing.

From Toronto to Bradford, which is on the Holband River, and at the head of Stemboat mavigation from Lake Simeoe, a distance of 42 miles, the line jasses through one of the most productive regions in America, and which has, for the inost part, a dense population. In this distance, and within a space of tex miles on each side of the road, the population is abrat 85,000 . The trade of tiis district, and north of it, now chictly remches Toronto over Yonge Street, which is a well graded and macadamized road, extending from 'Foronto to Holland Landing.

I am informed, by persons well acquainted with the subject that the travel in public conveyances between these two places is
equal to 75 persons each way daily, and by private conveyances as many more; and that equal to 100 waggons loaded with merchandize, produce, hmber, dec, often pass the toll gate, north of Toronto, in one hour. The street, for its entire length, presents at all times a busy serene, more like a villago street than a country road. Within the distance of 42 miles there are 72 taverns, and the eoustant throng of vehicles, of all kinds, indicates that they are required for the accomodation of the immense traflic. The effect of the operations of the railway when constructed will be, at the outset, to quadruple the travel and increase the traflie to a vast extent.

At Holland Landing, as well as at Barie, we connect with the navigation of Lake Simeoe, which has a coast of over 100 miles skirting a productive and well settled country. Notwithstanding the present isolated position of this lake, a Steamboat finds profitable employment for daily trips about its borders, and tho contributions to the business of the road from this lake will be fully equal to a branch road of 50 miles in length.

From Holland Landing to Barrie, which is 63 miles distant from Toronto, the road is located through a less populous, but very productive country. Pine lands of great extent are adjaeent to this portion of the line and will furnish a large and profitable business. These lands when cultivated produce abundant crops of wheat and other grains.

An extensive and productive region, west of this portion of the line, will, as well as that bordering on the lake, contribute considerably to the business of the road from its present resources.

From Barrie to Lake IIuron the line passes through a district sparsely settled, but haviug an excellent soil, now bearing extensive forests of pine and other valuable timber. These forests will furnish the road with an immense traffic for many years to come.

It is known that lumber is transportel over the New York and Erie Railroad in large quantities, a distance of nearly 400 miles, and at rates which will equal the eost of transport from
this region orer your road, thence by Lake Ontario and the New Jork Camals to the City of New York.

Aloug the shore of the (icorgian Bay, extending north and west fiom the trmmation of the roanl, is at herge dintrict with a prodnctive soil and which is rapidly increasing in population, and will be tributary to the roal. The rahay one in operation, and haning no tratlic except that draw from the regions above referred to, will, within a short time, it not at the ontset, commaml business fully aderpate to semure ample returns for its cost. The regions about Lake Superior and the Northern pertion of Michigan ame Inmon will, however, be tributary to the road, as ft will be the shortent, cheapest and most agrecable route between those regions and the great markets of Canada and the United States.

To illustate this important statement, I would refer to the map herewifh. It shows that by spaning the Isthmus, between Lakes Ontario and Huron, with a railway of only 90 miles in length, the perils of Lakes Erie and Huron are avoided and the distance reduced 267 miles. Agreeable changes from steamboats to cans oceur, and with the sate navigation of Ontario and the Georgian Bay we have, during the warm season, a ronte along the latter remarkible for the beanty of its seenery and the salubrity of its climate.

We will suppose that passengers leave New York City by a moming train, they reach Oswego, a distance by mailroad of 328 miles in 12 hours, the night is spent on Lake Ontario, the 150 miles from Oswego to Coronto requires say 10 hours, thence to Huron, inchuding changes from and to stemmboats, 4 hours Travellers can then by our route reach Lake Haron at a point about 150 miles north of Detriot within 26 hours, enjoying a night's rest on Lake Ontatio. By way of Rochester and Lake Ontario, the distance by steamboat is rednced, and by railrond increased, and by railroad to Lewiston the steamboat navigation is reduced to 40 miles, and by forming proper connections between the trains over the central rouds and the New York and

Erie road and boats between Lewiston and Toronto, the time between New York City and Toronto, via Buttalo and Niagara Falls, will not exceed 20 hours.

When roads now in progress shall be constructed and extended to the month of the Niagaral River, as some of them will be, withont doubt, a still greater saving of time will be makle, and, ere long, the northern temination of your road will be within 22 hours of New York.

It is a most important fact, affiecting the value and usefulness of your roal, that Lake Ontario, between the harbone of Toronto and Niagara, is never frozen and that stemuloat navigation is mainained throughont the year:

## Miles.

The distance from the City of New York to Lake
Huron, at the termination of your road, is as
above stated . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 568
From this to Mackinaw is about . . . . . . . . . 250
From N. York to Mackinaw, via Toronto . . . . . 818 miles. Miles.
N. York to Buffialo . . . . . . . . . . . . 470

Butfalo by Lake Erie to Detroit . . . . . . . 285
Detriot to Mackinatw . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 330
From N. York to Mackinaw via Detroit . . . 1085 miles.
Making a saving in distance of . . . . . . . . 267 miles.
These distances are made up of railroad and steamboat routes as follows:

Via Toronto, . . . . Railroad, 418 miles. Steamboat, 400 miles. Via Buffialo de Lakes, do. 470 do. do. 615 do.

Saving of time ('Toronto route) by railroad 2 hours and by steamboat 14 hours, in all 16 hours, and at 2 cents for railroad and 1 cent for steamboat fare, a saving in cost of $\$ 320$.

So frar as travel by the lakes is concerned, this difference in cost and time will be the sane whenerer the travel is destined to any point beyond Mackinaw.

Water commmieations are always the cheapest compared with railroads, and upon sate waters, or during calm weather, the most desimble, and will command the largest amount of travel, unless the loss of time is too great. With a large proportion of traveliers, cost and comfort are the considerations which controul in the selection of the route. Time is an important element with men of business; but is not as controlling with the great mass of travellers as many persons imagine.

While the fare on the line of roads between Albany and Buffalo was three cents per mile, the number of passengers, (mostly immigrants) was greater on the Erie Canal than on the railroads. Steamboats on the Hudson River contime to tako most of the twavel notwithstanding the completion of the Hudson River Railr ad, and, no dombt, will contime to do so. Between Boston and New York, if I am correetly inforned, much the largea number of passengers take loats on the Sound in preference to the continuons line of raiiroad. I an informed, also, that the number of passengers by the Lakes between Buffalo and Chicuge was as great last season, in proportion to the steminoat facilities, as frior to the construction of the Michigan Central Railroad.

Ii your route will controul travel from prorts on Lake Liehigan as far south as Fond-lu-lace and Milwaikie, then it will have the benefits of that brought to those points by railroads extending thence interior, and as it is undeniable that large numbeis of passengers, to and from the east, go ly steamboats hetween Buffialo and Chicago, and, as it will be nearer by 267 miles, occupy less time, be cheaper and more agreable by the way of your road, it is sate to clain that they will take your route when completed.

But, let us assume that :ailroads are preferreal log a majority of
travellers, and that, on long journeys, changes from cars to steamboats, are not desired. From New York to Chicago by railroads now constructed or in progress, the distance appears to be 1052 miles, and to Milwaukie, 1147 miles.

The listance from New York to Miin:akic, by the route of your road, is, 1108 miles, of which 418 is by ralroad, and 685 by steanboat, allowing tine for rest which, it would seem, all must require on long routes by railroads, let us assume 20 miles prer hour as the aremge rate of speed on a journey of 1146 miles, and the tine will be, by railroad between New York and Milwankie, 58 hons: make the time between New York and Toronto, 22 hours: allow four hours to pass over your road, and a stembont speed of 14 miles per lour through the Lakes to Milwaukie, and the time would be, between New York and Milwanke, 75 hours, or 17 honrs longer than by railroad.

The cost by railroad route at 2 cents per mile, would be $\$ 23$; and ria Toronto, making railrond fare 2 cents, and steamboat fare 1 cent per mile, the cost would be, say $\$ 15$, making a difference of $\$ 8$. But few travellers coment their time to be worth $\$ 8$ or even \$5 per day. If the expenses were the same, and the time requred $2 t$ honrs longer, you would, doubtless, still command some travel from Mihwakio and Chicago by reason of the ease and attractive features of your route.

Assuming Boston, Portland, Quebec or Montreal, as starting points, instead of New York, and the relative adrantages of your route over others as a line of commmication to the north-west remain the same or are increasel, it will be and must remain the shortest and cheapest route between all those cities and the large districts alluded to lying north-west of 'Toronto.

I take great satisfaction in embodying the following letter of Edwin F. Johmson, Esq., he is an eminent Engineer, and his long experience in the construction of public works, and habits
of careful investigation of all the elements required for their successful operation, justify the fullest reliance upon his opinions:

## (Copy.)

New York Crity, September 30th, 1851.
H. C. Seymour, Esq, Chief Engineer,

Ontario, Simcoo and Huron Railroad.

## Dear Sir,-

Your favour, of 8th inst., requesting my views of the project of a railway to connect Lake Ontario with the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, or Lake Manitoulin, as it is sometimes called, awas received a few days since, and I arai! myself of the first opportuity to reply to it.

The near approach of the waters, above named, to each other, early attracted my attention, anl, in a published report made about 16 years since, I commented upon the importance of uniting them, if possible, by a narigable communication.

The surveys which have since been made, while they do not show the impracticability of a canal, yet, considering the actual character of the country and the improvements since made in the railway system as a means of transit for both goods and passengers, lead to the conclusion that a work of this latter character will not only be well sustained by the busmess it will perform, but prove a great convenience to the population of a vast extent of country bordering on the great lakes.

The interior region, thus particularly benefited, comprises the north and north-western part of the lower peninsula of Michigan, the whole of the upper peninsula lying between Lakes Michigan and Superior, the northern and middle part of Wisconsin, to gether with Minesota and the territory west, tind the entire country lying north and north-west of Lakes Huron and Superior in Canada. This whole region is rich in agricultural, mineral and other resources, and is fast filling up with an intelligent and en-
terprising population. On this subject I can speak from personal knowledge, of a large portion of Wisconsin, being now engaged in constructing a railroad to extend from near Green Bay southerly into Illinois, a work, the northern portion of which will contribute, duriug the season of navigation, to the business upon the Ontario and Huron Road, as affording, from the saving in time and distance, a most eligible route to the eastern seaboard.

Other improvements are also in progress, or contemplated, which must produce a similar eflect upon the business of the Ontario and Huron road, among the most prominent of which is the proposed navigable communication between the waters of Green Bay and the Wisconsin River, thereby uniting the lakes with the upper Mississippi, by the cheapest route possible for a work of that description.

This improvement, which is now in progress as a State work, is to be of dimensions suited to the smaller class of steamboats, such as can navigate the Mississippi and its tributaries, and will be completed probably in less than two years from this date, when it will pour upon the waters of Green Bay a vast amount of agricultural and mineral wealth, and thus conduce, in common with other improvements, hereafter to be made, leading to other points in that portion of Lake Michigan and to. points in the rich mineral regions of both shores of Lake Superior, very materially to the business and revenue of the Ontario and Huron Road.

These considerations, combined with the facilities which now exist through the reciprocity Acts of the Governments of Canada and of the United States, insure to the Ontario and Huron railroad a large portion of travel and business which would otherwise pursue a different and more circuitous route.

That these views are not very wide of the truth will be the more evident when it is considered that the Ontario and Huron route not only lessens the distance between the region of country above described and the eastern seaboard some 230 miles, as
compared with the route by Lake Erie, but it also avoids the tolls, experise and delay of passing the Welland Canal, or about 160 miles of the New York Canals, either of which it is believed, will go far towards lessening the difference caused by the extra cost of tramshipment and transit by railway upon the Ontario and Huron routc.

With respect to the travel, which is always the most profitable part of the business of a railway, the Ontario and Huron route will, from the saring in time and distance upon it, command, during the season of navigation, the most of that which passes to and from the region mentioned and the Atlantic senboard. This travel will be augmented from what it has hitherto been, not only by those more general causes which are contributing to swell the population of the west and north west, but by the fact that the Ontario and Huron route avoils that portion of Lake Huron, the navigation of which is the most difficult and dangerous, its direction being along the north shore of that Lake through the Georgian Bay, as it is called, a considerable portion of the distance being, as represented, in the vicinity of islands which afford a convenient and safe shelter for vessels.

In predicting, as I confidently do, a large anount of business for the Ontario and Huron Road, I am fally sustained by the experience of the past in regard to the probable future developments of the resources of that particular portion or region of country which stands in direct commercial relation to it.

In the report to which I have already allnded, I made an estimate which was then deened by many as extraragant of the probable increase in the population within a given period of the States and Territorics contributing to the business of the New York Canals from New York West, viz:-New York, Ohio Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and the then Territories of Michigan and Missouri. That estimate was based on the census of 1830 and previous ones, it gave for the States and Territories therein naiued a population, in 1850 , of $8,500,000$ souls; the actual
population of the same extent of country, as derived from the census returns of 1850 , is $8,515,200$, showing a very near approximation to the estimate in the general result, but in the details it appears that in the States of New York, Ohio and Indiana, the actual result is less tham in the estimate, while in the States and Territories to the west and nortli-west it is greater; showing that in the region of country which is more likely than any other to contribute to the business of the Ontario and Huron Road, the rate of increase in population has been the greatest, and this greater increase is likely to continue for a series of years to come.

You remark in your letter that the Ontario and Ituron Railroad is to have a breadth of track or gange of five and one-half feet. The Canadas being to a great extent separated by waters which cannot be bridged, and under a different government can very well adopt a gauge differing from that of Roads in the United States without inconvenience, aud five and one-half feet is certainly better than four feet eight and a-half inches, whichis the prevailing width in New England and a portion of New York.

The adrantages of the greater width of track are many and important, while the disadvantages are few and comparatively unimportant. In adopting the five and a-half feet gauge, you have doubtless been influenced by the fact that the Atlautic and St. Lawrence Road, and others projected in Canada are of that width, but the reasons which can be urged in faror of $5 \frac{1}{2}$ feet, as compared with a $1, \ldots \mathrm{cer}$ width, apply with still greater force to a width of six feet. This, in comection with the fact that the latter width has been adopted upon the New York and Erie Railroad and its branches, which is now and hereafter to be a leading thoroughfare from New York West, establishes the propriety of making that width the standard throughout the Western States; and in this view, the Line of Road which I am now constructing in Illinois and Wisconsin is to be of that width, and I do not hesitate to say, that it is the most proper width to
be adopted throughout the vast region now unoccupied, by Raiiroads lying west of the State of Indiana and Lake Michigan in the United States.

With much regard, I am very truly yours, dec, EDWIN F. JOHNSON.

As suggested by Mr. Johnson, Thave no doubt of your ability to command a large amount of freight transport passing between the distant regions alluded to and the seaboard.

Upon the completion of the Erie Road last season, largo amounts of Merchandize took that route from New York to Dunkirk, and were there transhipped to vessels for other ports on Lake Erie. Considerable portions were again loaded upon cars at Cleveland or Sandusky to be taken by Railroad to Cincinati, thence by the Ohio River to different towns along its banks. This was done during the season of canal navigation, although Cincimati is connected with New York by water communication by which the cost of transport is much less than by the route described.

The saving of time by your route will in like manner enable you to command a large through business in freight. The expense of transhipment from cars to boats, or the contrary, at your terminations need not exceed 4 cents per ton. At 'Joronto (and it will be so at your Northern termination,) the location of your Road places the cars and ressels side by side, and as freight from New York, or any Atlantic Seaport, can be delivered cheaper at Toronto than at Buffalo, the cast by your route between the seaboard and the country described by Mr. Johnson will not differ materially from the cost by way of Lake Eric.

The saring in time must therefore command for your route a large traffic passing between those points. The great and rapidly augmenting travel and traffic between the St. Lawrence and the upper lakes will of itself during the season of navigation, burden

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Roads
your Road with business and the construction of the great Trunk, Railway will still further augment it.

I would again refer to the map as plainly exhibiting the evidences that your ronte has from its remarkable location all the advantages claimed and must therefore be productive.

Its effect upon the growth of Toronto will be quite beyond the seeming expectations of her enterprizing and intelligent citizens. It will fill her docks with lumber and produce of all kinds, and her harbor with vessels. The Esplanade, if built on the largest scale contemplated, will all be required for commercial purposes. Fonge Street is a very important condition to her present prosperity. The Railroad, bringing to her the products of regions far beyond Yonge Street, from the upper lakes, and frem the Upper Mississippi will do much more. .

The productive country along the line of the road, and for many miles on each side, will rapidly increase in population and wealth.

The time is now as hand when, with proper co-operation of those most interested, these benefits may be realized. Under the present progress of the work, Contractors can complete the Road to Barrie, 63 miles, by next autumn, and to Lake Huron by the year following.

The cost of your Road will be less than the average of Roads in the United States, while its resources greatly exceed very many Roads of greater cost which are amply productive.

Respectfully submitted,
H. C. SEYMOUR, Chief Engineer.

## STATISTICS

Of the Country through which the Railroad passes, and other information in regard to the same :-
Length of Railroad, - - - - - - - - 90 miles. Connects Toronto, on Lake Ontario, with Lake Huron, through the Georgian Bay.

## Comparative Distances.

From New York to Mackinaw by this route is, by Railroad, 418
Do.
do.
do. Lakes,
400

Total Distance, - - - 818
From New York to Mackinaw by Buffalo and Lakes is,

| by Railroad, | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Do. |  | 470 |  |  |  |  |
| Do. | do. |  |  | Lakes, | 615 |  |

Total Distance, - - - 1085
Making a saving in distance of 267 miles, a saving in cost of 20 per cent., and a saving in time of 25 per cent. This saving in distance, cost and time applies, as will be seen by the accompanying map, to all the business and travel between the northwest and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Comnecticut, Massachussetts, New York, and portions of New Jersey and Pennsylvannia, and with greater force to Nora Scotia, New Brunswick, Lower Canada, and a large portion of Upper Canada, containing, in all, a population of more than eight millions.

## POPULATION

Of the City of Toronto and the Counties of York and Simcoe, respectively, for the years 1839, 1842, 1848, 1850 and 1852.

| Years. | City <br> of <br> Toronto. | County <br> of <br> York. | County <br> of <br> Simcoe. | Total in <br> Yok and <br> Simcoe <br> including <br> Toronto City. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 8 3 9}$ | 12,153 | 47,056 | 10,743 | 69,952 |
| 1842 | 15,336 | 55,372 | 12,592 | 83,300 |
| 1848 | 23,505 | 83,490 | 23,050 | 130,045 |
| 1850 | 25,166 | 88,441 | 25,753 | 139,360 |
| $* 1852$ | 27,500 | 93,000 | 29,510 | 150,000 |

[^0]Extract from the Address of the Board of Directors, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin and Kin' cardine, K. T., Governor General of British North America, dec, on the occusion of breaking ground for the first Railroad from Toronto, on the 15th October, 1851 :-
"According to the census of 1848, the last officially promulgated, the quantity of Lands in the Countics of York and Simcoe under tillage, and the stocks, productions, \&ce, were as follows :-



Extracts from the Reply of IFis Excelloney to the Board of Directors, on the occasion referred to :-
"It is no new thing with me to feel an interest in the construction of a Railway through the District which it is intended that the Line we are now assembled to inaugurate shall traverse. Four ycars ago, on the occasion of my first visit to Toronto, I was so much struck by the great amount of local traftic, as well as by the fertility and capabilities of the country through which I passed in the course of a drive which I took along Yonge Street, that I ventured to predict that we should soon sce a Railway running through it. The favorable impressions which I then received have been strengthened by subsequent observation, and they are further confirmed by the valuable statistical information contained in the Adrrest which you have just now read. That this Railway, which is to connect Lakes IIuron and Ontario, should be commenced, while 1 am still in Canada, is .therefore a subject of no ordinary gratification to me."

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"It is indeed my conviction that there are few parts of this wide and flourishing continent which can boast of a prosperity more uniform, and in all respects more satisfactory, than that which this City and neighbourhood enjoy."

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[^0]:    * Estimated.

