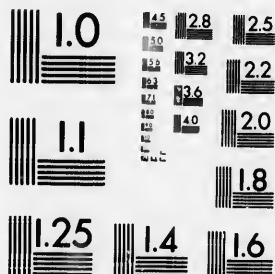
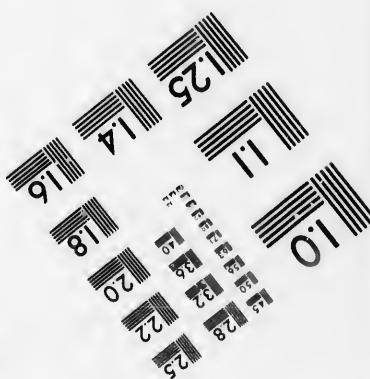
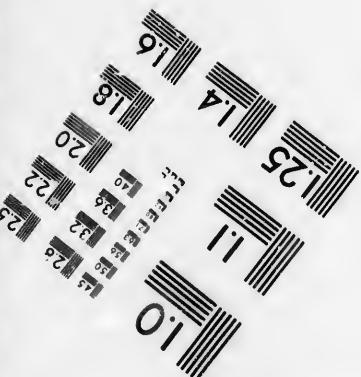


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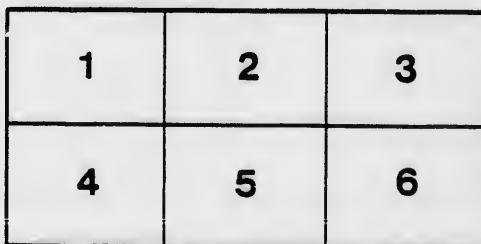
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THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

OF

C A N A D A .

CONDITION OF THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

1851.

AIRWAY

N LIST.

HAYMARKET

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF CANADA.

The Capital, which the Company may raise by Subscription under the Acts of the Parliament of Canada, incorporating it—the Act 8 Vict. c. 86, s. iv., provides—may equal, but shall not exceed (60,000 Shares of £.25 Currency each), or Currency £1,500,000

The Capital required to complete the whole Line, according to the Report of the Chief Civil Engineer, Charles R. Stuart, Esq., dated September 1st, 1847, and very recently confirmed by the present Acting Engineer, R. G. Benedict, Esq., will not exceed Currency £1,250,000

The Stock taken and engaged to be taken, according to the information in possession of the Agents in England, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Atcheson, at the close of the last year, amounted to 41,317 Shares, or Currency £1,033,675

But this amount was subject to contingencies, which rendered a revision of the Subscription List necessary.

The Railway Guarantee Act of the Parliament of Canada, (12 Vic. cap. xxix.) empowers the Governor in Council, on behalf of the Province, to guarantee the interest on loans raised by any Company, chartered by the Legislature for the construction of a line of Railway, not less than 75 miles in length, within the Province, on condition:—That the rate of interest guaranteed shall not exceed six per cent. per annum,—that the sum on which interest shall be guaranteed, shall not be greater than that expended by the Company before the guarantee is given, and shall be sufficient to complete the road to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Public Works:—that no guarantee shall be given, until one-half of the line shall have been completed,—that the payment of the guaranteed interest shall be the first charge upon the earnings of the Company,—that no dividend shall be declared so long as any part of the guaranteed interest remains unpaid; and that a sum equal to three per cent. on the principal, shall be annually set aside out of the surplus profits, as a fund for the redemption of the Loan.

The provisions of this Act, therefore, opened three courses to the Directors:—

I.—To attempt the completion of the subscription to the full extent of the capital, authorised to be raised, without calling up the full amount subscribed.

II.—To reduce the present and promised subscription to two thirds of that amount, £1,000,000, calling up the whole amount subscribed, and borrowing the balance under the provisions of the above Act.

III.—To reduce the subscription to one-half of the authorised amount—£750,000, borrowing the other half or an amount sufficient to complete the work.

But, as the expenditure of £425,000 in the completion of half the line, entitled the Company to the Guarantee of the Provincial Government on the loans, necessary to complete the other half—there was clearly no absolute necessity to seek new Subscriptions either in England, if the feeling of this Country was adverse to the undertaking, or elsewhere; while the adoption of the second or third course above mentioned, besides rendering the Company independent of further subscriptions, placed in their power some important advantages, *viz.*,

First.—The reduction of the amount of stock capable of being thrown upon the Share Market, in this country, or the United States.

Second.—Increased facilities for negotiating the debentures of the Municipalities in the Province, that had subscribed to the Company's stock.

Third.—Additional and important inducements to capitalists to take the Company's debentures with the guarantee of the Provincial Government; and a large reduction in the amount of the guarantee necessary to be obtained.

Fourth.—Certainty in the periods, when the guarantee will be required, and the means of enabling the Provincial Government to arrange the issue of these debentures at the times and in the mode most favourable for their negotiation to the best advantage.

Upon a careful review of all the circumstances, and after a strict revision of the Subscription List, The Directors resolved to adopt the second course, and to limit the present amount of capital to be raised by Subscription, to £1,000,000 Currency, or 40,000 Shares, being two-thirds of the amount authorised by the 8th Vict. c. 86.

Of this amount, 30,000 Shares were appropriated for Subscription in Canada and the United States. The remaining 10,000 Shares were reserved for Subscription in Great Britain.

In deciding on the issue of 40,000 Shares, rather than 30,000, which would have been more than sufficient to entitle the Company to the Provincial guarantee for a sum exceeding the amount neces-

sary to complete and equip the Railway. The Directors were influenced by their desire and that of many native and zealous promoters of the undertaking, that the Subscription in this country should not be less than that in the United States.

If the feeling of this country, however, is not favourable to the undertaking, and any of these Shares ultimately remain unsubscribed for, the completion of the whole Line, it is evident, is still secure. The deficiency will be made up, and more than made up, by the issue of guaranteed Debentures.

In this event, an addition may be made, when these Debentures are paid off, to each Subscriber's Stock, in the form of *bonus* or otherwise, with the further advantage of a corresponding increase in the market value of the Shares, resulting from the diminished number capable of being thrown on the Stock markets of this country and America.

Of the Shares appropriated for subscription in Canada and the United States, nearly the whole have already been subscribed for; at the same time, the payments upon them have been sufficient to warrant the Directors in extending the works for the construction of the Line. A force equal to three thousand men, besides the necessary engineers, agents, &c., &c. is now employed, and sanguine expectations are entertained that some portions of the Road will be open for traffic in the course of the present year, and that the whole line will be completed by the close of the ensuing year.

A brief statement will show the value of the Subscription of the Municipalities of Upper Canada, connected with the Line, and the ample security provided for the holders of the Debentures of these bodies.

Upper Canada is divided into Counties. These are subdivided into Townships. Each Township is a distinct corporation. The Counties are also corporate bodies, governed by a Council, composed of the Reeves or heads of the several Townships within their respective limits. The Cities and chief towns are likewise incorporated.

All these Municipalities have, by statute, certain specified powers to incur pecuniary liabilities for *local purposes*. These local purposes do not of course comprise the construction of Railways, or contributions to the Stock of Railway Companies; but by an Act of the Legislature of Canada, which received the Royal Assent on the 23rd July, 1850, the Municipal Corporations of the Province were *specially empowered* "to subscribe for any number of Shares in the Capital Stock of THE GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY," and of that Company only,— "or to lend any sum of money to the Company, or to guarantee and become security for any sum of money borrowed by it."

The same Act empowered the municipal corporation "of any County, City, Town, Township, or Village, who shall subscribe for the Stock of THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, or shall lend or guarantee the payment of any sum of money by it,—to cause to be assessed and levied, upon the whole rateable property of the Municipality, sufficient sums to enable them to discharge the debts and engagements contracted in regard thereto."

The Legislature of Canada, which has thus empowered the Municipalities of the Province to subscribe to the Stock of THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, has also provided the most stringent remedies for the payment of municipal liabilities, and for protecting the holders of municipal securities against *the possibility* of loss.

For the General Municipal Act, 12 Vict., c. 84, provides:—

That no Municipality shall pass a By-law for the creation of any debt, or the negotiation of any loan, without inserting a provision for a special annual rate (in addition to all other rates) for the payment of the debt or loan.

That such rate shall be sufficient, according to the value of the rateable property as shown by the then last assessment returns of the Municipality, to pay the loan and interest **WITHIN TWENTY YEARS.**

That the Municipality shall not repeal such By-law, or discontinue such rate during the existence of the debt.

That the rate, when levied, shall be first applied to the payment of so much of the debt as shall then be due, and the surplus funded in securities selected by the Governor in Council, for the special purpose of extinguishing the debt.

That any By-law, by which it shall be attempted to repeal any By-law for raising, or to alter or diminish the rate for the payment of such loans and the interest thereof, shall be absolutely void.

That any Municipal Officer acting under such invalid By-law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both.

In case of default in payment, judgment may be recovered against a Municipality as against an individual, by a speedy and inexpensive process: and the judgment creditor has the option either of selling, under execution, the goods and lands of the Corporation, or of ordering the sheriff, by endorsement on the execution, to levy the debt by rate; or he may first sell the Corporation property, and afterwards levy any unpaid balance by rate.

The sheriff, on being ordered to levy the debt by rate, is required by section 179, to notify the Corporation, and if the debt be not paid within a month, to strike a sufficient rate, according to the assessment of that year, and to issue his precept to the collectors of taxes to levy the same, in addition to the general rates for the year. By the same section, the clerk of the Municipality, assessors, and collectors are declared to be officers of the court, out of which the execution has issued, and made liable to summary punishment, by attachment, for neglect of duty.

From the above statement, it will be seen that the Municipalities of Upper Canada can neither evade nor postpone the payment of their debts, and that, in fact, the security of the holders of their debentures is *perfect*.

It is obvious too, that in a highly fertile country, like Upper Canada, where the progressive increase in population, and where the accumulation of property in amount and value, are exceedingly rapid,—a rate sufficient to pay a loan within twenty years, according to the assessment of ratable property at the time the loan is contracted, *must* discharge the debt greatly within that period.

The assessed value of ratable property in Upper Canada appears, by the Tables of the Government Board of Registration and Statistics, to have amounted,

In 1827, to £2,112,817,

And in 1847—twenty years afterwards, to ...£8,567,001.

Being an increase of nearly 100 per cent. This increase is shown by the Tables to have been effected by a steady annual advance. It is impossible, therefore, to doubt that the same yearly improvement will continue—or more probably, advance at a still more rapid rate, and thus render still more certain the extinction of Municipal engagements at a period very greatly within that contemplated by the Statute.

The following Statement, extracted from the Tables of the Government Board of Registration and Statistics, exhibits—

ANNUAL AMOUNT AND VALUE

Of all Articles Assessed for Local Taxation in Upper Canada, under the several Assessment Laws of that portion of the Province, compiled from the Returns of the Clerks of the Peace, from the Year

1825 to 1847, both inclusive.

Years.	Population.	LANDS.		GRIST MILLS.		Merchants' Shops, and Store Houses.	Horses, Cows, Oxen, Young Cattle.	Saw Mills.	Carriages kept for Pleasure.	Amount of Assessed Value of Property.	Gross Amount of all Local Taxes.
		Cultivated: Uncultivated:— Assessed value per acre: £5 per acre.	Assessed value per acre: £5 per acre.	No. of Mills.	Acre or run of stones.						
1825	158,025	2,500,304	595,212	8,876	232	71	510	121,206	304	587	2,356,874
1826	161,703	2,641,725	611,251	9,742	250	80	541	137,315	429	592	2,400,004
1827	2,86,070	2,86,070	632,035	9,880	262	94	547	140,913	100	750	2,412,847
1828	175,128	2,917,807	678,618	10,183	1	98	610	155,634	515	968	2,570,083
1829	186,645	3,008,577	517,552	11,390	99	102	670	161,374	535	982	2,735,783
1830	213,363	3,211,110	77,501	12,082	273	121	899	178,850	535	986	2,929,265
1831	231,081	3,570,6380	818,492	13,605	291	135	852	187,907	533	1111	3,143,4
1832	260,092	3,730,011	106,179	14,550	320	152	950	208,468	671	1203	3,115,822
1833	296,570	4,115,250	981,055	16,440	367	173	1130	213,250	723	1321	3,710,010
1834	340,535	4,171,995	1,031,116	16,771	328	102	1089	220,550	788	1409	3,815,742
1835	316,165	4,470,268	1,209,508	18,488	372	100	1091	243,218	759	1495	3,910,004
1836	372,502	4,847,100	1,281,531	20,051	356	97	1181	268,827	902	1720	4,605,100
1837	396,208	4,530,398	1,453,560	22,057	366	233	1345	278,113	860	1627	4,434,008
1838	485,521	4,853,810	1,206,493	13,512	350	251	1010	243,814	774	1405	4,282,514
1839	107,515	5,113,123	1,587,570	25,040	420	208	1159	298,304	953	1769	5,315,372
1840	427,411	5,290,001	1,710,000	25,57	490	294	1233	315,576	965	1863	5,407,436
1841	465,2	5,510,103	1,710,604	27,360	448	314	1356	350,634	980	1836	6,269,309
1842	486,075	5,618,357	1,916,519	31,638	559	403	1388	388,034	982	2188	6,913,341
1843	5,781,107	6,030,570	33,100	151	375	184	1169	2618	1169	2135,321	6,819
1844	{ 8	5,845,035	2,160,101	35,631	465	360	1566	422,822	1210	3012	7,556,514
1845	6,072,070	2,311,538	37,211	175	417	1810	111,937	1272	3810	7,778,017	76,291
1846	{ 9	6,182,449	2,461,704	39,025	492	396	2048	460,415	1101	4510	8,236,677
1847	6,477,338	2,673,820	42,637	527	475	2124	181,117	1489	4855	8,567,001	86,058
1848	723,332										

This Table does not show the *increase in the value or market price of each class of articles assessed for local taxation in Upper Canada, but merely the increase in its amount or quantity, and the consequent increase in the product of the assessment,—inasmuch as the assessments are made on a fixed valuation according to a scale laid down in a statute passed long anterior to 1825.*

It places, however, in the clearest light, this important fact:—that an annual assessment on the same classes of articles, at a fixed or stationary rate of valuation, which produced

In 1827, £11,509

In 1832,—five years afterwards, produced nearly FIFTY per cent.

more, or 16,503

In 1837,—ten years afterwards, upwards of ONE HUNDRED per cent.

more, or 24,337

and consequently:—that a rate which provides for the extinction of a Municipal Debt in TWENTY, will in all probability, ensure its PAYMENT IN TEN YEARS.

