

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - 1851

04/01/1851 *Bytown Packet* *Ottawa and Prescott*

Much discussion of the Bytown and Prescott. Success is a foregone conclusion. Prospectus. Meeting at Kemptville on Monday last.

12/02/1851 *Prescott Telegraph* *Ottawa and Prescott*

reported a meeting at Spencerville presided over by Prescott's Mayor W. Gibson, at which the following resolution was passed unanimously. "Resolved that this meeting cordially approve the projected Bytown and Prescott Railroad and are of the opinion that its completion will be highly conducive to the interests of this section of the country. Resolved that this meeting recommend the Council of this Township and other Townships between Prescott and Bytown to take stock of the Bytown and Prescott Road on the credit of the municipalities respectively, to the utmost of their ability. Carried.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Patrick and Mr. Keeler of Prescott, R. Burrit Esq. M.P.P. Mr. R. Bell of Prescott and Judge Brown of Ogdensburg. After the business of the meeting was closed, the stock subscription book was laid on the table by Albert Hooker Esq., and several enterprising farmers came forward and showed confidence in the undertaking by subscribing liberally.

13/02/1851 *Brockville Recorder* *Kingston (CN)*

A number of delegates from places favorable to a grand Provincial Railroad from Toronto to Montreal met in the Council Chamber at Kingston, Monday, week. The room was filled with citizens and strangers who attended each of the three days the convention was in session. . On the second day, Mr. Keefer took his seat as a delegate from the Montreal and Lachine Railroad Company and J.L. McDonald as delegate from Gaganoque. On a motion of Dr. Beatty, resolved that the Mayors and Wardens of each municipality on the line shall form a committee, making in all nine members. Resolved that the provisional committee shall meet in Cobourg. Resolved that the different municipalities shall appropriate £50 each to meet the expenses of the survey. A public dinner took place in honor of the convention.

It appears that the proposal to send a delegation .. Was negatived in the Council of Leeds and Grenville by a majority of four.

22/02/1851 *Bytown Packet* *Ottawa and Prescott* *Spencerville*

Account of meeting in Spencerville on 12th.

19/03/1851 *Prescott Telegraph* *Ottawa and Prescott*

quoted the Ottawa Citizen as follows:-

Bytown and Prescott Railroad

The value and importance of this enterprise are becoming more apparent and appreciated. The first call has been promptly paid up and subscriptions to Stock are being constantly received. The advantages of Railroad communication have been made clearly apparent during the past three months. The demand for produce at Prescott, created by the Ogdensburg Railroad, carried off large quantities from Oxford, South Gower, Mountain and other large and prosperous Townships, and caused a large advance in prices.

Without the Ogdensburg Road the prices of Corn, Oats, Barley &c would have been 2d to 6d per bushel less than the prices that have been realized. Ere long the Montrealers will calmly set to work and make the road to Bytown; for with all their squabbling and eccentricities, they have too much good sense to be gulled so immeasurably as to decide on any other route; and we will yet see the main traffic of Upper Canada passing over the Bytown and Prescott Railroad.

12/04/1851 *Ottawa Citizen* *Ottawa and Prescott*

A public meeting numerously attended of the assessed inhabitants of the Township of Gloucester was held at Billings' Bridge for the purpose of giving their assent to the taking of stock in the Bytown & Prescott Railroad. It was moved by the Honourable Thomas McKay and seconded by Mr. Bearman that this meeting do give assent to the taking of five thousand pounds stock on the credit of the municipality, in the capital stock of the Bytown & Prescott Railway. On division, the motion was carried by a large majority. The men with large properties in the Township and upon whom the chief weight of taxation will devolve, were in favour of the motion.

26/04/1851 *Ottawa Citizen* *Ottawa and Prescott*

Shanly's report, 7 April 1851, is published.

07/06/1851 *Ottawa Citizen* *Union Forwarding* *Chats Falls*

Advertisement. The public generally are hereby notified that this line will be in full operation on and after Thursday the 17th instant. There is a woodcut of a sailing ship and a steam engine hauling two coaches.

06/09/1851 *Ottawa Citizen* *Ottawa and Prescott*

The Directors of the Bytown and Prescott Rail Road held a meeting at Prescott on Tuesday last, the 2nd inst. at which the necessary steps were taken for proceeding with the work on the line forthwith. The tender of Messrs. French & Co. for clearing and grubbing of the woodland upon the whole line was accepted and their Chief Engineer has already advertised for certain sections of the grading.

More.

Notice to contractors - tenders for grading.

20/09/1851 *Ottawa Citizen* *Ottawa and Prescott*

Publishes extracts from Shanly's report.

On Thursday last, the 9th instant, was witnessed the very novel, and to the people of this section of Canada, most interesting ceremony of breaking ground on the line of the Bytown and Prescott Railroad. The day was as beautiful as could be desired, and an immense concourse of people were congregated to witness the proceedings. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon the Procession, in the following order, formed in front of the Railroad office in Rideau Street, and from thence proceeded down Sussex Street to the place selected for the important operation:-

His Worship the mayor and Members of the Town Corporation.

Directors and Officers of the Railroad Company.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Burns and the President of the Railroad Company.

The Sheriff of the County and other Officials.

The Grand Jury.

Cadets of Temperance, in Regalia.

Sons of Temperance, in Regalia.

The President of the Company delivered an address, and then taking the spade proceeded to break ground, and tossed the first sod in first-rate style, amid the shouts and cheers of assembled thousands.

Justice Burns addressed the audience, congratulating them upon the prospect presented of so great and desirable an undertaking being carried forward. Judge Armstrong being called upon, congratulated all present on the occasion of breaking ground, in commencing a work of so great importance; and in a short but very happy and humorous speech, referred to some of the advantages that would result from it. G.B. Lyon, Esq. M.P., next spoke, complimenting the taxpayers, who had assented to their Municipality subscribing largely on behalf of the enterprise. They were all shareholders indirectly, and were interested in its success. Speaking in the open air, or on the subject of Railroads was not his field, and Railroads were not his politics. He wished the undertaking success.

The President returned thanks to the Sons of Temperance, complimenting them in the highest terms; which was replied to on the part of the Sons and cadets by Mr. Hewitt.

The Sons presented a highly creditable appearance both as regards numbers and respectability - and we were particularly pleased with the interesting and fine display made by the cadets.

Mr. Bell, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Friel being called upon, addressed the audience, and the proceedings closed.

Precisely at 7 o'clock a large party of gentlemen of the town sat down to dinner given by the President and Directors at Doran's. To say that the dinner was at Doran's is a sufficient description of the manner in which it was got up, and of the excellent quality of the viands - to state that it was got up in Doran's best style is to say all we can in praise of the eatables and wines. The President of the Company, Mr. MacKinnon, presided - supported on the right by Mr. Justice Burns, and on the left by Captain Ford, Royal Engineers. The Mayor of the town acted as Vice. On the removal of the cloth, after ample justice had been done to all the good things, toasts were given from the chair.

(There then follows a description of the toasts.)

A number of jovial songs were sung in the course of the evening by different members of the company, and that heartiness and good humour which the best of champagne and wines of every description, together with the auspicious events which the Company met to celebrate, were calculated to inspire, prevailed throughout.

On Monday morning at 9 o'clock, the contractors for this section of our Railroad nearest the St. Lawrence, Messrs. Howard & Goslin, "broke ground" a couple of hundred yards below Fort Wellington. There was no parade, no ceremony, but the workmen assembled with shovels and picks and commenced operations. About 50 men are at work together with several teams and waggons.

We can congratulate our towns people on the actual commencement of this great undertaking..Bytown and Prescott Railroad is now fairly under way and although no great fuss has been made by its friends, we have no doubt that it will give employment to the first "Iron Horse" in Upper Canada.

Notice is hereby given that .."a book of Reference for the Lands required for the construction of the Bytown & Prescott Railway throughout the County of Grenville has this day been deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Municipal Council"