

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - 1853

05/02/1853 Ottawa Citizen Ottawa and Prescott

Editorial. Brockville intending to build a bridge and a railway to Pembroke. Perth and Kemptville Railway. Need to stress the importance of supporting the Bytown and Prescott.

05/03/1853 Ottawa Citizen Bytown and Pembroke

The Railroad Meeting held here on Monday last, the proceedings of which will be found in another place (long) expressed plainly the feeling generally entertained in relation to a railroad communication with Montreal. Whatever the advantages of such a road would be it is beyond dispute that the success of the Bytown and Prescott road is of the first importance to Bytown, and next, and almost of equal importance is the Railway from Bytown to Pembroke. If these roads were built, it is quite certain that so far as Montreal is concerned, that city would have no alternative but lose the trade or build a road up the Ottawa. It is for us to look after our own interests - other places will look to theirs. A single ill-considered step at the present moment would be severely felt hereafter. The policy by which alone we can succeed should be ever kept in view, and the utmost energy should be employed in carrying it into effect. The resolution to subscribe to the survey of the Bytown and Pembroke road is a step that will pay well, both as regards the direct object for which it is contributed and the effect it must open to us on the other projects in which we are at this moment interested.

The account on the Montreal and Bytown meeting is long. One area for concern is that there could be a direct line to Kemptville with a junction there for Bytown. This was seen as contrary to the interests of Bytown

10/04/1853 Boston Journal Ottawa and Prescott

reported a meeting in the Revere House of the city on April 10, 1853 where it was stated that construction (of the Bytown and Prescott) was well advanced and half of the road was ready to have rails laid upon it, and \$180,476 had been expended.

02/07/1853 Ottawa Citizen Bytown and Pembroke

Meeting of the Bytown and Pembroke Railway directors.

07/07/1853 Hastings Chronicle Ottawa and Prescott

Quotes the Prescott Telegraph:
Bytown and Prescott

John McKinnon has just returned from England successful in his mission : has disposed of £55,000 of debentures with which he has purchased iron necessary for the road, half to be delivered in a few weeks and the balance in the spring. Mr. Bell, the Secretary has been actively engaged in Boston, completing arrangements for purchase of eight locomotives and 131 cars. It is expected the cars will run as far as Kemptville in the Fall.

30/07/1853 Ottawa Argus Union Forwarding

Long account of the visit of the Governor General

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On Friday morning (5 August) His Excellency, accompanied by a party of some 70 gentlemen, and a few pretty faces to represent the fair sex, embarked on board the steamer "Emerald" which conveyed them to the "Chats," here they took the cars, and after three miles pleasant driving over the railroad (a construction of timber in some places twenty to thirty feet high, which the County owes to the private enterprise of Mr. Egan and Joseph Aumond Esq.) were transferred to the "Oregon" on board of which steamer they continued on to Portage du Fort.

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His Excellency returned to Aylmer about 10, p.m., and almost immediately proceeded to Bytown, which latter place he left for Montreal on Saturday morning.

06/08/1853 Ottawa Citizen Ottawa and Prescott

The directors of this company have now expended about £100,000 on this road, and in addition have purchased and paid for the iron. The locomotives and cars are likewise purchased and principally paid in stock; and now if they could obtain £75,000, the road could be completed and cars running to Kemptville, this fall and early next spring to Bytown. This being their situation, the directors can see no way of finishing the road without aid from the Corporations of Bytown and Prescott, and the municipalities through which it passes.. more.

16/08/1853 Ottawa Argus Union Forwarding

At Les Chats

The traveller now ascends a flight of stairs some seventy feet, and there finds cars to carry him over three miles of railroad through a most wild and romantic olace. - Another steamboat is waiting to take him further up this magnificent river.

27/08/1853 Ottawa Citizen Ottawa and Prescott

The By-law of the Town of Prescott to loan the Railway Company £25,000 was adopted by the town council on 17th instant, and published since. The meeting of the inhabitants takes place next month.

27/08/1853 Ottawa Citizen Ottawa and Prescott

Long comment on the potential for the Bytown and Prescott - uses statistics for other railways.

03/09/1853 Ottawa Citizen Bytown and Pembroke

Bytown and Pembroke Railway.

W. Shanly, Esq. has undertaken the survey of this important line of railway and the Corps of Engineers are now at work. A.H. Sims, Esq. is the Assistant Engineer, and A.W. Sims, Esq. on behalf of Mr. Shanly, accompanies the party. The net-work is spreading and Bytown will soon be the great centre of railways from all points.

On Wednesday last, the 31st ultimo, at 12 o'clock the Municipal Electors of Bytown met at the Market Hall to take into consideration the By-law "to enable the town council of the Town of Bytown to lend to the Bytown and Prescott Railway Fifty Thousand pounds and to borrow money for that purpose upon the credit of the Consolidated Municipal Loan Fund of Upper Canada." As near as we could establish, upwards of nine hundred were present. Considerable excitement was manifested both for and against it.

His Worship the Mayor presided and E. Burke Esq., Town Clerk, acted as Secretary.

When the question was submitted the show of hands was about two to one in favour of the By-law, and His Worship declared it carried in favour of the "yeas". A poll was demanded by the opponents of the By-law, and granted. The Messieurs Powell then tried to raise some excitement by speechifying and kept up a tirade of abuse of Mr. Bell and others until the people became disgusted and hissed them down. The opponents of the by-law were rather ill-natured and noisy, but notwithstanding the excitement, the large number of men present, and the over-crowded state of the hall, there was not a single breach of the peace or any kind of disturbance.

At sunset, the poll stood - Ayes 460, Nays - 138

Majority -147(sic)

The poll opened again at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning and at about quarter past two, no votes having been offered for the space of 30 minutes the poll was closed and the results declared.

Ayes - 460, Nays - 147, Majority in favor of the By-law - 313

Several speeches were made at the close of the proceedings, among others by Messrs. McKinnon, Bell, the Mayor, Dr. Beaubien, and Mr. Friel, the latter in a tone of stirring eloquence.

It remains for us to say that the conduct of J.B. Turgeon, Esq. the Mayor of Bytown, on this occasion, was such as to call forth the warmest plaudits of his fellow citizens and was in the highest degree creditable to the position he fills.

The victorious party formed a grand procession and passed through several streets from one end of town to the other. Between five o'clock and six o'clock it was over, the people dispersed to their homes, and the town was as quiet as usual, except a salute of artillery fired about sunset in honour of the victory.

Let Prescott at the other end of the line now do its duty. Bytown has nobly done its part.

Montreal and Bytown Railroad - The voting by the electors for the by-law in favor of this road, we are happy to return goes on favorably. We think it right, however, to correct an erroneous impression which we find prevails in some quarters, that a charter only binds the company to bring the terminus of the road to Cote a baron. It is the intention, we understand, that there shall be two termini - one in the neighborhood of Viger Square, for passengers and the other near Papineau Road to connect with the river. - Mon. Herald, Sep 3.

It is reported the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Company have entered into an agreement with Messrs. Sykes & Co., English contractors to construct the railway from Brockville to Pembroke with a branch to Perth. The line of road is now being surveyed, and it is stated that the whole is to be completed within three years.

Editorial on vote at Prescott on Monday next.

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On Wednesday and Thursday last a vote was taken of the people of Bytown to lend the credit of the town to the Railway Company for £50,000, and notwithstanding the immense exertions used by the faction who have opposed the road from the beginning, the vote was affirmed by a majority of 313, the yeas being 460, the nays 147. This is a much greater victory than we had anticipated, and the rumors which had for some previous days come in thick upon us, respecting the opposition which would be encountered when the contest would come on.

W. Shanly Esq. has undertaken the survey of this important line of railway, and the corps of engineers are now at work. A.H. Simms Esq. is the assistant engineer and A.W. Simms Esq. on behalf of Mr. Shanly accompanies the party. The network is spreading and Bytown will soon be the great centre for railways from all points.

The two Railroad Companies, the Montreal & Bytown and the St. Lawrence & Ottawa have entered into an arrangement by which the latter company withdraws from the field and leaves the Montreal & Bytown line alone to be constructed.

Editorial - Prescott has voted £25,000 credit to Bytown and Prescott.

Montreal and Bytown Railroad - The time for polling the votes of the electors on the By-law of our City council lending the aid of the City to the above undertaking, expired yesterday; and we are happy to be able to announce the welcome intelligence that the citizens have ratified the By-law by an overwhelming majority. Out of 1,730 votes and over polled, only three were recorded against the road; and when the votes have been scrutinized, it will be found that not one French Canadian elector has polled against the project. - Pilot, 16.