

Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Perth and Kemptville Railway

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Perth and Kemptville

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The following article from the Standard of the 27th. deserves especial attention. The view of the subject taken by that Journal is fair and proper in every case.

"Perth and Kemptville Railway Company. - the act for the construction of this road is now before us, from which we extract the following clauses bearing on the construction of the contemplated line of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway: but whereas, a charter has been granted during the present session of parliament to construct a railway from Brockville to Ottawa, with a branch to Perth from Smith's Falls, the said Perth and Kemptville Railway company shall not be empowered by this act to construct a railway from Perth to any place at or near Smith's Falls aforesaid, unless the said Brockville and Ottawa Railway company shall not, within five years from the date of the charter, make and construct the said Railway from Smiths Falls to Perth, or agree in writing, signed by the Directors of the said company and sealed with their seal to relinquish to the said Perth and Kemptville Railway company all right under the charter to construct the railway from Smiths Falls as aforesaid." From the above it will be seen that the interests of Perth and the surrounding country must now be entirely identified with the construction of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway, and we now look forward, with every confidence, to the active and hearty co-operation of our Perth friends in carrying forward this great enterprise to successful completion"

The above paragraph is taken from the Brockville Recorder of the 19th. It will be seen that certain parties - not at all interested, of course - have caused a clause to be inserted in the Act authorizing the construction of the Perth and Kemptville Railroad, to the effect that that portion of the route which lies between Perth and Smith's Falls shall not be built upon for a period of five years except through the instrumentality of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway company, or unless the directors thereof do give permission to other parties to proceed with the construction of the road. In our humble opinion, this seems to be a very high - handed measure. Because the inhabitants of Perth do not entertain views consonant with those of certain parties who have no direct interest in her welfare, these very parties are endeavouring to force a good town to assist in the construction of a line of railroad which, if not exactly fraught with danger to the interests of the inhabitants, would vary materially benefit the shareholders of the Brockville and Ottawa company. If the very idea of constructing the Kemptville and Perth line be so chimerical as certain parties would induce the public to believe, where lay the necessity for the introduction into the act of the clause of which we complain? If the Brockville and Ottawa Road, when completed, will possess vast advantages, as respects carrying of freight and passengers, over that of the Perth and Kemptville Road, why should the directors of the former dread the construction of the latter?. We are led irresistibly to the conclusion that notwithstanding the amount of ridicule which interested parties have endeavoured to throw up on the projectors of the Perth and Kemptville line, the Brockville and Ottawa company knew full well that that ridicule was not merited. The insertion in the Bill of the clause above-mentioned is sufficient to prove the fact.

Section illegible

Had the restrictive clause not been inserted in the Act, the Brockville and Ottawa scheme would be looked upon with a much more favourable eye by this section of the country than it now is.

People do not like to be forced to perform an act, even if they supposed that they would ultimately derive a benefit from all their having been so forced. In fact, every act of the Provincial Parliament authorizing the construction of Railroads in this section of the Province, - even Grand Trunk itself, - has been framed with a view to the advancement of the pecuniary interests of certain parties, rather than to develop our vast resources and lay a permanent foundation for future prosperity.

The Brockville Recorder of the 19th ult. Exulting over the mutilation of the Perth and Kemptville Railway Bill says: - "The interests of Perth and the surrounding country MUST be ENTIRELY IDENTIFIED with the construction of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway".