

THE VICTORIA RAILWAY.

CEREMONY OF TURNING THE FIRST SOD.

(By Telegraph from our own Reporter.)

LINDSAY, Aug. 5.

By invitation of the President and Directors of the V. R. R. a numerous company of gentlemen from Toronto went out to Lindsay on Wednesday, to assist in the ceremony of turning the first sod on this the youngest of the Ontario railways. The instructions were that the excursionists would go out on an early train on the T. & N. R. R.; and the train, comprising one first-class car and the Directors' car, moved out from the station shortly after 8 o'clock under the immediate direction of Mr. W. Gooderham, jr., President of the T. & N. R. R., who accompanied the party as far as Woodville, when they were transferred to the Midland Railway. The acknowledgements of the company en route were justly due to Mr. Gooderham for his attention and presence. The President of the Road, Mr. Geo. Laidlaw, was unavoidably absent, for some reason which was as much regretted by the Company as by himself. There were on the train from Toronto the Hon. Attorney-General Mowat, Hon. Mr. Fraser, Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. C. J. Campbell, Vice-President of the Victoria Railway; A. MacNabb, Secretary of the Victoria Railway; Angus Morrison, M. P.; and Mr. J. A. M. Fraser, M. P.

Bellevue
August 5
1874

T&N

EMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

(To the Editor of the Times.)

SIR,—In a previous communication I mentioned the arrival of some 350 emigrants from Iceland. I also stated that it was intended to locate them on the free grant settlements in the township of Lutterworth, about 100 miles north of Toronto. In the meantime they are to be employed on the new railway now in course of construction in that district. Yesterday the last detachment, numbering 135 persons all told, left the immigration sheds at Toronto, and proceeded to their present destination. They went by rail to Coboconk, and thence by waggon to Kinmount, a distance of fifteen miles, where shanties built of logs had been prepared for their reception about a mile back into the forest. It was a strange sight, and full of deep interest to one unaccustomed to the rude manners of the settlers in a new country, to witness what it was my privilege to do in the transportation of this company to their new homes. Arrived by train at Coboconk, there was a good dinner provided at the hotel, which, after a very trying ride in an emigrant train, was very acceptable to them. During the journey in the railway car an infant died, and the parents left it behind them to be buried by strangers. Another poor woman, who was evidently enduring the pangs incident to the latest extremities of pregnancy, had also a child in her arms which was near death, being watched fearfully and sorrowfully by father and mother. There were some old people, too, for whose closing days one could desire to see more comfort and repose; and there were children, who although apparently looking as hard as old nails, were several of them giving indications of cough and cold. The weather has lately been very damp and cold, and yesterday especially so, which rendered a drive into the forest not a thing to be coveted, but which under other conditions would have been most enjoyable. Fifteen waggons, each drawn by a span of horses, were drawn up and loaded with women and children and

Globe

1874

T.P.N.

into the forest not a thing to be coveted, but which under other conditions would have been most enjoyable. Fifteen waggons, each drawn by a span of horses, were drawn up and loaded with women and children and luggage, the greater number of the men having to walk. This journey (fifteen miles) was accomplished in about five hours. The roads were fearfully rough, and the severe joltings in a waggon with no springs, I shall not attempt to describe. For a considerable part of the journey we were benighted, and it was with feelings of no ordinary character that we jolted along a most rugged road, fully in possession of the knowledge that on either side of us there was a dyke prepared to receive any of us who by accident, blundering, or incapacity of the driver deviated from the narrow beaten track. However, the back always seems fitted to the burden, and so at such times all is not sadness, as was proved by the enthusiastic singing of the people on the journey. The woods resounded with their shouts; and although there may be something doleful in reading of the hardships which it is the lot of many to encounter, which causes the chair to be drawn still closer to a warm fire in the drawing-room, and which draws forth a sigh for the poor unfortunates who are the victims of such unfavourable circumstances, still there is a charm and romance in this life even which seems to compensate the heroic soul; and he finds his reward in the accomplishment of his task, and his pride, in his valour. As we proceed on the journey and talk of its difficulties we are reminded by the old settlers of the immensely greater ones they had to endure when, 20 years ago, there were no roads at all to their settlements, and they had to carry their provisions for 20 miles on their backs through the forest. It is intensely interesting to hear these old settlers speak of their beginnings, and their struggles and ultimate victories; and it is pleasing to observe with what pride and satisfaction they reflect on the fact that after 20 years' battling with life, by degrees adding store to store, they are now in possession of value to the amount of from \$8 000 to \$20,000.

Glouce

1874

TAN