

expectation that it would act as an impetus, and have the railway built through all the agricultural land along the line of this located railway.

Another very strong reason why North Bay should be the starting point is, that it obviates the necessity of building any other railway or extension of a railway to reach this zero point, as in fact the Nipissing and James' Bay Railway will be only a continuation of the Grand Trunk Railway System, which is known to be one of the *best constructed, best equipped and most direct railways* possible to be built through such a country. The G.T.R. thus giving a direct line all the way from Toronto to North Bay, thence on, in connection with the projected railway, to James' Bay. Seventy miles already have been *located*, ready for construction between North Bay and Lake Te-ma-ga-meeng, the alignment and gradients of which are laid out so as to conform to the same on the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway, and which will be continued in a similar manner to the end of the road.

Between North Bay and the country through to Lake Abittibi there are millions of dollars worth of red and white pine, besides other valuable merchantable timber, such as black birch, spruce, tamarack, etc., etc., very little of which, however, can be brought to any market until railway communication is established, on account of the many rocky and dangerous falls, shallow rapids, etc., etc., to remedy which, for the transport of the same by water, would entail an amount of money exceeding fifty times more than the construction of the present proposed railway; in fact, in some places it would be almost an impossibility to change the position of the waterways for the removal of timber or logs, but with railway facilities no trouble whatever would be experienced.

Thirty miles north of North Bay the mineral belt begins, improves as we go northward and continues on to Hudson's Bay. I was out last September and October with a party of nine, one of whom was an experienced mining engineer, and what we saw perfectly satisfied the whole of us. It would take too long, however, to go into all the details with reference to those minerals. This country has already been examined and reported upon by the Geological Department at Ottawa (which see).

As to the climate, as far north as Lake Abittibi, it is similar to, but no colder, than that at Ottawa.