

Before proceeding with the report, I beg to call your attention to the following abstract, taken from C. Legge's, Esq., C.E., report on Montreal and Northern Colonization Railway :—

“A few remarks on the water power of St. Jérôme may not be out of place, in consequence of the intimate relation which exists between its profitable employment and the construction of the railway.

“The North River, which furnishes the power in question, takes its rise in several large lakes in the interior of the country, draining a large extent of territory, and flowing in a southerly direction to St. Jérôme, where it turns suddenly and runs in a south-westerly direction, discharging into the Ottawa river, near the Village of St. Andrew's.

“At the Village of St. Jérôme, and for the distance of six miles, there is a fall of 305 feet, divided over that space by a succession of cascades or currents, developing a power of 120,000 horse-power, at the lowest stage of the water in a dry season, or about twelve times as much power as exists at the City of Lowell in the United States.

“In all my experience as an hydraulic engineer, I never saw a more favorable locality for employing the water by a succession of dams at different points along the river, thus causing it to repeat its useful effect at least a dozen times within the distance of six miles.

The bed of the river in many places is of rock with adjoining banks admirably adopted for the efficient distribution of the power for useful purposes in mills and factories. Passing along the beautiful banks of this river, and stopping from time to time to examine points which would give joy to the hydraulicians heart, and which, by the expenditure of a few hundred dollars, could be converted into splendid mill sites.

With the rich undulating agricultural country stretching off to the south, east and west, and flanked on the north by the Laurentian Mountains, with their undeveloped mineral wealth, the spectator would be deeply impressed with the facilities given by Providence for turning the riches of this region into a means of support for the teeming population yet destined to occupy this favorite country. The writer himself could well sympathize with the