

railway, and, therefore, only requires a general indication of the line the proposed road would follow.

Starting from Fort Garry, this would be through the Red River Settlement; first nearly due west for 6 miles along the north side of the Assiniboine to Sturgeon Creek; then slightly N. of W. for 5 miles, and afterwards N.W. over another small creek to Lane's Post, 10 miles, and to Long Lake 8 miles beyond; the whole over level, open, and beautiful prairie ground. From Long Lake the road would follow the Assiniboine in a south-westerly direction for 26 miles more, to the village at "Prairie Portage," forming the western boundary of the settlement, in long. $98^{\circ} 30'$, lat. 50° N. The whole of this portion of road from Fort Garry lies in the Devonian formation. Total distance

55

A straight line from Prairie Portage (or possibly from Long Lake 26 miles back) to the foot of the Yellow Head Pass, a few miles N. of Jasper's House, would carry the road along the border of the more arid and treeless plains towards the south, instead of passing through the "true prairie land" called the Fertile Belt. In order to do this, the road would have to follow a west-north-westerly course (which would not lengthen it materially) to the mouth of a small tributary of Rapid river, at the foot of the Riding Mountains, in long. $99^{\circ} 45'$, lat. $50^{\circ} 30'$; and thence run a degree or two more to the north in a straight line to the North Saskatchewan, some 18 miles above the Bend, and near the confluence of a small affluent from the Eagle Hills, in long. $107^{\circ} 15'$. The railroad would thus connect with that noble stream near the middle of its course, and consequently with the vast tracts of country which it traverses, both above and below; at the same time that it would open up the very richest ground on this side the Assiniboine, and run nearly the whole way through the Fertile Belt beyond.

Following this line from Prairie Portage, the road would cross at the end of 5 miles a small stream, called Rat river, running north to Lake Manitouba. It would then run W.N.W. along the valley of White Mud river, through a country of prairie lands of the richest description, thickly interspersed with woods, to a tributary in long. $98^{\circ} 40'$, where the valley takes a more westerly direction; and crossing the river, continue due west over several insignificant streams from the southern foot of the Riding Mountains, to the N.E. elbow of Rapid river in long. $99^{\circ} 30'$; a stream about 50 feet wide, which here turns abruptly to the S.W. A little before reaching this, the road will have left the Devonian and entered on the Cretaceous formation which (more or less covered with superficial deposits) extends to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Crossing Rapid river near the Bend, the road would then follow the south side of the valley for about 12 miles to the tributary in long. $99^{\circ} 45'$, where the line changes direction. Distance from Prairie Portage

80

Turning very slightly northward, the road would continue to

Miles ... 135