

Murray; though none was observable by the naked eye. A little over a mile from the mouth of the Humber, the great deposits of marble, so frequently referred to, occur. Until the past season I never had an opportunity of examining this marble before, and certainly had no idea of its enormous volume. There are many varieties of shade and color, ranging from black to pure white; the latter greatly predominating. It rises on either side the river to heights of over 1,000 feet, forming conspicuous and most picturesque scenery. In fact this part of the river presents some of the grandest scenery in this Island. On the left bank an enormous mass, which I have named Marble Head, towers above the river. It is merely the shoulder of a lofty range, extending across to Wild Cove, and how much further I cannot say. The river cuts through this range in a deep narrow gorge, but the hills rise again on the right side, forming an immense bare cliff of white marble, which strikes inward in a south-westerly direction. It has never been traced out, nor is it known how far it extends either way; fragments of white marble were, however, met with on some of the small brooks towards St. George's Lake, ten miles to the westward. That this enormous development of beautiful marbles can fail to become of economic importance some day and form the basis of a great marble industry, it is difficult to believe. Mere surface specimens, such as have hitherto been tested, cannot, in my humble judgment, be accepted as a fair criterion of the character of the deposit throughout. Some purplish slates were observed on the shores of the Humber Arm, which appeared well adapted for roofing purposes. Limestones of various qualities abound, and good building material, with admirable whetstones and grindstones, can be procured amongst the lower carboniferous strata on Junction Brook, or the shores of Grand Lake.

FEASIBILITY FOR RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

With the exception of three or four places, the entire route offers every facility for railway construction, and no insuperable difficulty presents itself. The rise over the wooded ridge, after leaving the Badger River, is somewhat steep at first, being about 250 feet in the first two miles; this gives an up-gradient of about 1 in 42. It can be considerably eased, however, by taking the rising ground obliquely as shown on plan, and then sweeping around the