

At the Trois Pistoles, the stream in the course of ages has worn out a very awkward and deep ravine. The bank on one side is generally steep and abrupt, whilst that on the opposite is low and sloping away back for a long distance, before it again reaches the height of the table land.

The most favourable site for crossing it occurs at about eleven miles from the St. Lawrence, where the two banks become nearer to each other, and are more equal in height.

At this point the breadth of the stream is 100 feet at bottom. The width between the banks at top 500, and the depth is nearly 150 feet. The banks are rocky. Though formidable it is by no means impracticable.

On the New York and Erie Railway there is a bridge whose roadway is 170 feet above the bottom of the ravine, which it crosses by one span of 275 feet. Its cost was £5,200.

From Rivière du Loup to Quebec, the railway might but for the snow, be carried almost at a surface level.

Through the whole of New Brunswick, for 234 miles, and through Lower Canada as far as Rivière du Loup, 167 miles, there will be found along the line abundance of timber and stone (including limestone) of the best quality for building purposes.— There will be found also in New Brunswick more especially, abundance of gravel for the superstructure.

In Nova Scotia, the railway will have to pass with but little exception through land which has been sold or granted away to individuals. The exception will be the other way in New Brunswick. It will be seen on reference to the Model Map, that it approaches the settlements between Bay Verte and Shediac, and skirts along the Bay Chaleurs.

In Canada from the mouth of the Metapediae to the Trois Pistoles, it runs through still ungranted land. But for the last 110 miles between Rivière du Loup, it runs through a densely settled country.

Until the detailed surveys are made, and the precise location of the line marked on the ground, it will be impossible to state precisely the exact number of miles it will pass through Crown land.

If the following estimate be taken, it will not be much out—

In Nova Scotia	-	-	-	-	15 miles.
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	200 "
Canada	-	-	-	-	160 "
				-	375 "
				-	"

The following synopsis will show approximately the quantities of ungranted land in the counties through which the line passes:—

<i>In Nova Scotia.</i>				
				Acres.
Halifax County	-	-	-	780,000
Colechester	-	-	-	120,000
Cumberland	-	-	-	180,000
				1,080,000
<i>In New Brunswick.</i>				
Westmoreland County	-	-	-	301,000
Kent	-	-	-	640,000
Northumberland	-	-	-	1,993,000
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Gloucester