

## PREFACE.

IN May, 1879, the Canadian Parliament, having decided that additional information should be obtained regarding certain proposed routes for the Canadian Pacific Railway, resolved that a party be sent to examine the country from Port Simpson, on the Pacific, across northern British Columbia and through the Rocky Mountains by way of Peace River and Pine River Passes to the prairies. Copious information had already been procured regarding several other routes connecting the Prairie Region with the Pacific, but the final selection of a Pacific terminus was reserved until this northern route to Port Simpson had been examined and fuller information had been obtained regarding the general character, the resources, and the engineering features of the country.