

RAILWAYS

IN

Inverness, Cape Breton.

OTTAWA. 8th MARCH, 1890.

To
HENRY N. PAINT, Esq., Ex-M.P.

PORT HAWKESBURY, CAPE BRETON.

SIR :—

RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS OF NORTHERN CAPE BRETON.

It has long been urged that the northern peninsula of the Island of Cape Breton should be furnished with railway communication. It is the most compact, as well as the best agricultural portion of the Island, but it is the most deficient in safe harbours. This peninsula is made up of the northern half of the County of Inverness, and the larger part of the County of Victoria. In addition to agricultural resources, the mineral wealth of this region is very considerable, but, chiefly from the want of harbours and of railways, this latter source of prosperity remains, to this day, entirely undeveloped.

2. The County of Inverness is the more important of the two, because it contains the greater area of culturable land, and of minerals. It possesses only one safe harbour, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence north of the Straits of Canso, Cheticamp, and also Whycomagh, on the waters of the Bras D'Or. Port Hawkesbury and Port Hastings are the two harbours on the Straits of Canso, which themselves may be called a harbour. Port Hood is only safe in fine weather, and Mabou and Margaree are obstructed by bars at their entrances. The County of Victoria, on the other hand, while having a less extensive agricultural area, and no coal, though there are other minerals, has good harbours on the East coast such as Ingonish and St. Ann's, and also Baddeck, on the Bras D'Or lake, a port more favourably situated than Whycomagh. Middle River is the best farming district in Victoria, and Mabou and Margaree in Northern Inverness. The most important mineral is coal, of the bituminous variety. This is entirely confined to the Gulf coast of Inverness. There are four known Fields where coal has been found and mined to a small extent, viz.—Port Hood, Cape Mabou, Broad Cove and Chimney Corner. As far as is known at the present time, it appears that the Broad Cove Coal Field is the most promising, on

Non-develop-
ment of Agricul-
tural and Mineral
wealth due to
want of railway
communication.

Harbours, coal
fields, and farm-
ing districts of
Inverness and
Victoria.