

your Grace approved of the idea, and wished us to acquire whatever information we might be able respecting it.

We take the liberty of observing to your Grace, with the utmost deference, that with whomsoever the idea of this communication originated, it is unquestionably the conception of a great mind. We humbly conceive that it ought not to be lost sight of by His Majesty's Government; and although it may not be either practicable or advisable to carry it into immediate execution, yet, by encouraging settlers on this line, and by affording assistance, in establishing a post for letters in the first instance, to the different settlements and between them, the country will, in a few years, be sufficiently cleared so as to allow it to be carefully explored, and the communication in question judiciously established. We do not, however, conceive that this proposed new line of road ought by any means to do away that which we have detailed to your Grace in Paragraph 46, from Frederickton to the St. Lawrence, by the left bank of the St. John's River and the Lake Temiscouata. On the contrary, we submit, with the utmost deference, that when once the boundary with the American Government is clearly established, the more the country contained between the St. John's River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the River St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy, is settled, and the more communications that are made between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with Canada, the greater will be the facilities for defending these provinces.

The total distance from Quebec to Halifax by Ramousky on the St. Lawrence, the Bay des Chaleurs, Miramichi, and Cumberland Fort, is estimated at 660 miles. From this amount, the road from Quebec to Ramousky, 180 miles, and that from Halifax to Dorchester Court House, in the province of New Brunswick (where the road to Miramichi separates from that to Frederickton) 155 miles, may be subtracted, as both these roads are excellent. There remain 325 miles either to be made or improved.

Of these 325 miles, 125 (being the distance between Dorchester Court House and Miramichi) are travelled by the post (a man on horseback) lately established from Halifax to Miramichi, and about 30 of them (as far as Locagne) are represented as being practicable for a carriage.

From Miramichi, which is a very thriving settlement, consisting of about 5,000 souls, and where 300 square-rigged vessels are stated to come annually from Europe and the West Indies for timber, it is in contemplation to make a post road to the head of the Bay des Chaleurs, for the convenience of the settlers in that neighbourhood, a distance of 45 miles.

From the head of the Bay des Chaleurs, across the country to the last settlement on the Ristigouchi (80 computed miles), and from thence alongside the Metapediac River and Lake to Ramousky (75 miles), a perfectly new road will require to be opened. Of the whole of the communication in contemplation, it would appear from the above premises that there are already 335 miles of very good road made; that a bridle road exists, or shortly will, to the extent of 170 miles, and that the remainder, being a distance of 155 miles, must be made entirely.

In a country so new, and as yet so very imperfectly explored, being covered with wood in every direction, we beg leave, with the utmost respect, to observe to your Grace, that it appears to us it will be advisable not to make this road in too great a hurry, but rather, as we remarked in the first part of our report upon this subject, to recommend the Provincial Legislature to open this communication for the convenience of their post, not only from Miramichi to the Bay des Chaleurs, which we understand will shortly be done; but from the Bay des Chaleurs to the head of the settlements on the Ristigouchi River. The last 80 miles from the Ristigouchi River to the St. Lawrence through the district of Gaspé, will, we are afraid, be that part of the line on which it will be most difficult to induce settlers to remain, from what we ourselves saw of a similar country, but more to the westward, between the St. Lawrence and the Temiscouata Lake. This country is not, however, sufficiently known, nor has it as yet been examined, as far as we have been able to ascertain, by any competent person: so that a decided opinion can hardly be formed as to its nature and capability of cultivation.