

victions, totally unbiased and untrammelled, and from reliable sources, and which, I trust, will be of some service to your Secretary in the compilation of his reports.

With all this information now in my possession, and taking a totally impartial and broad view of the whole case, I am forced to come to the conclusion that within easy distance east and west of the eastern part of Lake Nipissing, the starting point for any railway projected to Hudson's Bay should be North Bay, and for various and obvious reasons, keeping always in view the interests of Toronto, Hamilton, and all cities and towns south of the C.P.R. or Lake Nipissing. This is the common-sense and natural route, and which line is *par excellence* a colonization road in every sense of the word, and as an absolute necessity must be built as speedily as possible, where there is such a large area of undeveloped country containing millions of acres of agricultural land equal to any in the province, practically lying fallow until this railway is constructed, the building of which in a word would mean the speedy settlement of every foot of arable land by hardy and prosperous settlers, making comfortable and happy homes for tens of thousands, and relieve the now comparatively congested districts in some of the older settlements; but no matter how fertile the earth may be, or how propitious the seasons, the settler or farmer can make no profits upon his labour unless he has a ready and reliable market for his produce, and this is impossible until a railway is built through this country, and which requires no argument to demonstrate.

Up to the present date there are already twenty-four townships laid out at the head of Lake Temiscaming, the land of which can hardly be excelled in many parts of Ontario; but the difficulty and expense for intending settlers, who at any time have no money to spare, deters them from making such a trip, preferring rather to wait and trust to chances until some means of penetrating the country is provided for them.

These twenty-four townships already mentioned contain 553,000 acres (over half a million), but the land is being gradually laid out each year by the Ontario Government. (See Provincial Land Surveyor Niven's Report as to the quality of the land in the Temiscaming district.)

As a matter of fact, the subsidy granted by the Local Government to the Nipissing and James' Bay Railway was granted with the