

the Thames and those running southerly to Lake Erie, is crossed with a grade, for about one and three quarter miles, of twenty-seven feet to the mile. From this last mentioned point to St. Thomas, the face of the country is broken by creeks, running to the lake.

St. Thomas is a flourishing town, forming a mart for the produce of the very fertile and highly cultivated country constituting the Talbot settlement. Near this place, the contemplated line is intersected by that of the London and Port Stanley Road. Kettle Creek, which passes through St. Thomas, affords numerous mill sites, and there can be no doubt that wheat, flour, and other agricultural produce, would be transported in vast quantities over the road from this section of the country. The distance from St. Thomas to Simcoe is forty-five miles, and the summit, between Lake St. Clair and the Niagara river, is found about half way between these two places. To surmount this, a grade of thirty feet to the mile will be required for about a mile on each side, which is the heaviest grade on the line. Between St. Thomas and Simcoe, three streams are crossed, the Catfish, Otter, and Big Creeks. The average width of the valleys is about one thousand feet. By a line run more to the northward, passing near Otterville, the Catfish would be crossed at a point where the banks are low, and its waters might be passed through a six feet culvert. The Otter would present banks of not more than twenty feet in height, and might be crossed with a common trestle bridge. Big Creek would offer still less difficulties, the banks being very low and the stream insignificant. The estimate, however, is made on the line surveyed, subject to the modification above mentioned.

Having thus given some account of the different portions of the country traversed by the line, I beg, before submitting the estimate, to offer a few general remarks on the whole line of country crossed by the proposed road.

In the first place, there is a large extent of uncultivated land, abounding in resources, and awaiting development. Secondly. There is a cultivated tract, second to none in Canada, settled by men whose energies have accomplished much in overcoming the disadvantages under which they still, to some extent, labor.

Numerous flourishing towns and villages are so situated as to receive great benefit from this line. Steam mills are being everywhere erected, and the streams above named abound in water privileges. In short, it is impossible to pass over this section of the province without being impressed with feelings of admiration at the extent of its resources, and of regret at their not being duly developed.