

Over ... 905

Continuing a little N. of W., it would cross from Sturgeon Lake to a bend in Canoe River, an affluent of Lac Seul, distant 35 miles, on the Canoe route from Fort Frances, and, crossing it, follow it down to the S.E. corner of the Lake, some 12 miles. In all

47

From Lac Seul the ground is generally considered to be lower, and though rough, and embarrassed with numerous lakes, to present no important obstacle. The road would run along the southern shore of this lake for 11 miles, and then crossing an affluent called Whitefish river, run up the valley a little S. of W. for 18 miles, following the north shore of a lake at the head of it, and then a straight line slightly N. of W. (in all about 57 miles) to the north end of White Fish Bay, 978 feet above the sea. Total distance

86

Crossing an affluent from the North, the road would follow the north-western side of this bay for some distance, and then strike nearly due-west over a broken sterile tract of country to the Winnipeg. This river, which is of large volume, about equal to the Rhine, would be crossed at the "Dalles," 958 feet above the sea. Distance

48

From the Dalles the road would pass a little N. of W. over easier ground to the foot of Falcon Lake on Labarrière river.

24

It would then run in a straight line due west to Fort Garry passing a little to the south of the Fork of White Mouth river. About 5 miles beyond this, or 38 miles from Labarrière river, the road would leave the Lawrentides and enter on the Silurian formation, which extends to Fort Garry, and forms here the beginning of the great plain which stretches westward as far as the Rocky Mountains. It would now run over unusually level and favourable ground for 52 miles; passing over several small branches of the Broken Head, a small rivulet called German Creek, and, finally, across Red river, (100 to 150 yards wide) to Fort Garry, a little below the confluence of the Assiniboine, Distance in all,

90

Total distance from Ottawa ... Miles 1290

PLAIN OF THE SASKATCHEWAN.

The railroad, as before said, will now have entered on the Great Plain, which further west takes the name of the Saskatchewan; passing through Fort Garry and the Fertile Belt in its whole length, to the foot of the Leather or Yellow Head Pass (lat. $53^{\circ} 12'$) in the Rocky Mountains. This plain rises in successive benches, gradually but almost imperceptibly, from Fort Garry (647 feet above the sea) to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, where it attains a height of over 3,000 feet; notwithstanding which, wheat is successfully grown at Fort Edmonton in lat. $53^{\circ} 32'$, 2,728 feet above the sea. It presents the easiest ground in the world for the construction of a