

nous belt of fine agricultural and pastoral land stretches almost uninterruptedly to Manitoba, a distance of one thousand miles.

The estimates of Messrs. MacLeod and Cambie lead to the belief that the western section of this line, will cost much less than the corresponding section on the Yellow Head route. Mr. Marcus Smith has stated that it may be safely estimated that work of construction will generally cost much more on the southern than on the northern line. Mr. S. Fleming, the Chief Engineer, has given *his* opinion that the present work of construction, on the Frazer, is unwise, in view of the advantages offered by the northern line. The accumulation of evidence given in those pages confirms these views: The northern line is therefore the better of the two for purposes of colonization and also of construction. Canadians may note these facts.

The writer is perfectly aware that the views embodied in this pamphlet will create some surprise, and, perhaps, excite the indignation of those journals which have already constituted themselves the "Mentors" of the people upon the question discussed.

The writer has, as must be perfectly apparent, abstained as much as possible from obtruding his own views upon the public, his aim has been so to group all the trustworthy evidence as to afford those chiefly interested—the already overburdened taxpayers—ready means of making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the subject. It is claimed for this paper that it is more a synopsis of evidence, a summing up, as it were, of the best testimony, than an exposition of any particular theory. A simple, unvarnished statement of hard, stubborn facts has been made, and the writer frankly admits, that it will concern him much to see that statement unfairly impugned, as an attack upon this pamphlet can mean nothing more or less than an outrage upon many of the ablest and most valuable officers of the Geological and Pacific Railway Staff of Canada, whose official evidence has formed, to a great extent, the basis of this discussion.

