

Among the many advantages which this line possesses over any others that can be devised, is its great superiority in point of distance, which *alone* holds out a fair prospect of competing with American lines, and consequently of counteracting the controul of a large portion of Canadian trade by foreigners.

The more this vitally important subject is investigated, the more necessary it must appear that the nearest and cheapest route to and from Canada, should be adopted; whatever other railways may be constructed for other purposes.

Whilst the line from Quebec to St. Andrews will best promote and secure this great commercial and political interest, it will, at the same time, pass through an extensive range of woodland, and convey lumber of different descriptions to a near market for exportation, which a longer route would not permit to the same extent, nor on equal terms.

It is therefore contended that this line, both in a commercial and political point of view, is entitled to a preference over all others, and it is believed that it may also subserve all the other national purposes equally as well.

The principal objection raised against this line is its proximity to the American boundary, being thereby rendered, in the event of a war, liable to be impeded by hostile invasion, &c. Although this state of events is not to be guarded against, it should be recollected that even the one from Halifax will be subject to the same peril, should it be an object with the enemy, as a large portion of it will be equally exposed, and that at a point where it will be most vulnerable.

It should always be kept in mind that Rail-Roads are best adapted to promote peace and civilization, and, therefore, that the argument of contiguity is greatly in favour of the St. Andrews line, instead of having any actual weight against it, as it would be met and intersected by one from the American side, which would materially increase its utility, and enhance the value of its stock, and at the same time add to its safety in the event of hostilities, by influencing restraint in self defence.

In the event of the Halifax and Quebec line being determined upon, as it most likely will be, the one to St. Andrews will