

survey parties at work on the proposed route beyond the Saskatchewan, and the Canadian Geological Survey Report for 1906 tells us that, by the summer of that year, "seventy miles of the road beyond the crossing of the Saskatchewan had been definitely located."

The mere fact that the Dominion Government has members of the Geological Survey at work "along the proposed route of the Canadian Northern Railway" beyond the Saskatchewan, as they themselves tell us in their annual report, goes to show that the question of the completion of the railway is less in the future than the average citizen thinks. The Canadian Northern do not object to state that they hope to be at Churchill in three years. The pending question before the Railway Company must be that hinted at by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the last session of Parliament, when he said that the standing offer on the statute books of 12,800 acres of land per mile for a railway to Hudson Bay had not been accepted by any company. The Canadian Northern Railway realize that 12,800 acres of inferior land along the road between the Saskatchewan and Hudson Bay, together with the customary Dominion subsidy of \$3,200 per mile, and 50 per cent. of the cost over \$15,000 per mile, the total subsidy not to exceed \$6,400 per mile, will not enable them to build the road.

Building in Keewatin, they will not have the Manitoba Government to guarantee their bonds to the extent of \$8,000 per mile, with interest at four per cent. for thirty years, as has been customary for that Province to do in the past. The Canadian Government will doubtless be urged to take the place of Manitoba in that regard; but before it does so a much fuller report than has yet been given as to the probable financial success of the road is due to the Canadian people.

The probable cost of the remainder of the line from the Saskatchewan to Churchill is a matter of conjecture. This distance is about 475 miles, and we are told that the route presents no very great obstacles to the construction of the