

Notwithstanding these unfavourable circumstances, the gross receipts in 1845 were £203,370, and its net receipts for the present year will probably equal a dividend of over 6 per cent. on its cost.

† With reference to your road as a great thoroughfare, it occupies a most remarkable position, connecting as it does the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic, at a point where the New England coast approaches nearest to the western waters; and having a large and populous city at either terminus, with capacious harbours, and a rich intervening country, it cannot fail to be one of the most important and profitable roads yet commenced.

From its peculiar position it never can be subject to competition. It is the shortest and cheapest channel through which the travel and trade of the provinces can reach the seaboard.

With a long line of natural and artificial communication connecting Montreal with the western waters, and the far west, it cannot be doubted that the completion of this last link will change entirely the channel of trade, open new resources, and add vastly to the business of the public works of the province, and to the wealth and enterprise of the country through which it passes. To the city of Montreal it is of vital importance; situated as she will be at the foot of this long line of communication on the one hand, and within ten hours' ride of one of the best harbours of the Atlantic coast on the other, she must unavoidably receive large accessions to her trade and commerce, and a vast increase of wealth. †