

| LOCALITIES. | COUNTRY TRAVERSED. | | | | Height above the sea. | Rise or Fall. | GRADIENTS. | |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|
| | Culti- vable. | Grazing | Barren Desert. | Total. | | | Feet per Mile. | One in |
| | Miles. | Miles. | Miles. | Miles. | Feet. | Feet. | | |
| Over | 150 | 331 | 257 | 738 | | | | |
| Thence to foot of Wahsatch Mountains (a most desolate region) | .. | .. | 200 | 200 | | | | |
| Thence to the dividing ridge | .. | .. | 20 | 20 | 7567 | | | |
| Thence to the western foot and beginning of Great Desert | .. | 40 | .. | 40 | 4960 | F. 2607 | 65 | 81-2 |
| Thence to Great Salt Lake | .. | .. | 70 | 70 | 4290 | F. 670 | 10 | 528-0 |
| Thence to divide from basin of the Humboldt | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5650 | R. 1360 | | |
| Thence to Truckee river, limit of the Great Desert | .. | .. | 577 | 577 | 5866 | | | |
| Thence to Donner Pass, summit of Sierra Nevada | .. | 14 | .. | 14 | 7042 | R. 1176 | 84 | 62-8 |
| Thence down to Colfax | .. | 51 | .. | 51 | 2448 | F. 4594 | 30 | 58-6 |
| Colfax to Sacramento | 54 | .. | .. | 54 | 56 | F. 2392 | 44 | 121-7 |
| Sacramento to San Francisco | 85 | .. | .. | 85 | .. | F. 56 | | |
| | 289 | 436 | 1124 | 1849 | | | | |

Of these 1,849 miles, 300 in the Rocky Mountains are subject to be snowed in for weeks in the year; 30 miles in the Sierra Nevada have had to be protected from avalanches by strong timber roofing; and more than 1,100 traverse barren tracts of country, infested with alkali, incapable of irrigation, and in many places desolate beyond description. Finally, the rise from Sacramento to the summit ridge of the Sierra Nevada amounts to 7,000 feet in 105 miles, whilst on the eastern slope there is a descent of 1,200 feet in 14 miles, occasioning grades of one in 48½, and requiring the most powerful engines to drag a relatively small amount of traffic.

D.—EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PACIFIC RAILROADS, *Dated February 19th, 1869.*

“The line of the North Pacific road runs for 1,500 miles near the British possessions, and when built, will drain the agricultural products of the rich Saskatchewan and Red River districts east of the mountains, and the gold country on the Fraser, Thompson, and Kootenay rivers west of the mountains. From China (Canton) to Liverpool, it is 1,500 miles nearer by the 49th parallel of latitude, than by the way of San Francisco and New York. This advantage in securing the overland trade from Asia will not be thrown away by the English, unless it is taken away by our first building the North Pacific road, establishing mercantile agencies at Puget Sound, fixing mercantile capital there, and getting possession on land and on the ocean of all the machinery of the new commerce between Asia and Europe. The opening by us first of a North Pacific Railroad seals the destiny of the British possessions west of the 91st meridian. They will become so Americanised in interests and feeling, that they will be in effect severed from the new Dominion, and the question of their annexation will be but a question of time.”