

The tract alluded to here is not clearly defined by the quotation, but it is supposed to mean the whole district along the south shore of the Bay Chaleurs.

This tends to show the effect produced by the vicinity of the sea, in moderating the temperature and saving the crops from untimely frosts. In this respect, therefore, the Line No. 2 has an important advantage over the one through the central and more elevated land of New Brunswick.

As the interior is approached, and the distance from, as well as the elevation above, the sea increases, the danger to crops from cold nights and early frosts also increases.

In the Madawaska Settlement, and on the Upper St. John River, great failures of crops have occurred from this cause, and wheat and potatoes are very liable to be destroyed.

From the Bend of Petitecodiac to the St. Lawrence, a distance of upwards of 300 miles, the direct line would pass through a perfect wilderness, with not a single settler on the whole line, except a few at or near to Boistown.

Leaving engineering difficulties for the moment out of the question, the cost of construction would be materially increased by the extra difficulties attendant on the transport of necessary materials, and in supplying with food the labourers and others engaged on the line.

This disadvantage is not shared by the second route, which can be approached in numerous places along the Gulf shore by means of bays and navigable rivers.

The Direct line No. 4 will not have such advantages to present to settlers as the second. On the contrary, if adopted, it might be found necessary to incur expenses for the establishment of small communities along the line, to repair and keep it open.

The facilities for *external as well as* internal communication, and other advantages arising from commerce and the fisheries, which will be developed by the Eastern line (and entirely wanting along the Direct route), will, it is fully expected, make its vicinity eagerly sought for by settlers, and that it will, in the course of no very great length of time, lead to the extension of that long-continued village which now exists with but little exception from Quebec to Metis (200 miles), from the shores of the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic Ocean.

An important item bearing upon the consideration of the best route is the present distribution of the population in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In illustration of this part of the subject, and to afford a better idea of the nature of the country than can be given by a merely outline plan, a model map (No. 3) has been prepared, showing the whole course of the lines (Routes No. 2 and 4) from Halifax to the St. Lawrence, and by the latter over the Trois Pistoles River, beyond which the line is continued through a level fertile and densely peopled district to Quebec.

The red line shows the proposed Route No. 2. The Halifax and Eastern or Bay Chaleurs line.

The black line shows the Direct route, No. 4, from the Bend of Petitecodiac.

The yellow tint shows the present settlements.

The green is the wilderness of uncleared forest, unsettled, and the far larger portion of it still ungranted and waiting for occupation.

It must be premised that a branch railway from the city of St. John is contemplated to pass up the valley of the Kennebecasis, and connect with the main trunk at the Bay of Shédiac.

The survey of this line, ordered by the Provincial Government, is in progress; and from the latest information received, the line promises most favourably.

The total population of New Brunswick has been estimated to amount, at the beginning of 1848, to 208,012, distributed in the proportions as under:—

County