

and Nova Scotia. This line was commenced shortly before Confederation was accomplished, by the New Brunswick Government, and after a good deal of negotiation has been assumed as a part of the Intercolonial Railway, at a cost to the Dominion of \$24,000 a mile, complete in every respect, but without rolling stock. It is already open for traffic to Dorchester, about twenty miles, and will be completed to the boundary about the end of the present year. The Commissioners went over the line as far as Dorchester, and made a careful inspection of it. It appears to be a very substantial, well-constructed line—thoroughly ballasted—well fenced—and for smoothness of riding equal to any twenty miles of railway in any part of the Dominion.

The Commissioners and Mr. Fleming stopped at several of the most important structures, and after a careful examination of them, were understood to be well satisfied with them in every respect. There appears to be no doubt that the country has got in this line a very good railway at a moderate cost. A good deal of controversy existed at one time as to the adoption of this line as part of the Intercolonial; but a careful inspection of the country through which it passes, and the substantial character of the work, must have removed all doubt as to the propriety of the course which has been adopted.

The line runs through the valley of the Memramcook, a most beautiful and thoroughly well cultivated tract of country.

Along the whole line the country is in a very high state of cultivation, the farmers all being in a prosperous condition. The crops are excellent, especially hay, which is a most abundant crop everywhere in the vicinity of the Bay of Fundy. Part of the line runs through a great extent of what is called "marshes," not what is usually understood by that name, but most fertile land, reclaimed from the Bay by dykes, and which, before being reclaimed, had received great deposits of the peculiar, but very rich, sediment which is contained in the waters of the Bay, and which is left on the land when the tide recedes.

This reclaimed land is of extraordinary richness, yielding, for many years in succession, very large crops indeed. If, after the lapse of many years, the land gets deteriorated, an opening in the dykes will let in the waters of the bay and a couple of tides will cover the land with a rich deposit, which will make it at once resume its wonderful fertility. These marshes are very highly prized in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and are of very great extent, the Bay of Fundy, through its numerous arms, stretching from Monckton to but a few miles from Halifax, a distance of upwards of 150 miles.

From Dorchester, the party proceeded by carriages to Amherst, visiting on their way some of the principal points where the railway is in progress.

The river at Sackville is crossed by a substantial bridge, very nearly completed, about 350 feet in length.