

Over ... 767

be of little or no use, and quite unavailable as a link in the great Overland communication with the West.

From Neepigon river the road would run a little S. of W. over a good tract of land to Black Sturgeon river, lying in a valley composed of excellent soil, and about six miles wide. Here it would turn W.N.W., passing through a depression between granite hills 1,000 feet high, to the Little Sturgeon, a branch of the former, and 4 miles distant. Both of these streams are fed by Lake Neepigon, 400 feet above Lake Superior, and stretching 90 miles north, by 65 wide. Distance

16

So far the whole line of country traversed after leaving Ottawa is relatively low, and the variations of level unimportant; but the road has now to cross the height of land which separates Lake Superior from Lake Winnipeg. Of this, again, little is known, excepting that the rocks are chiefly granite and gneiss, forming rounded summits or oblong eminences of little altitude, but transverse to the course of the road, and separated by inclined narrow valleys, or larger ones occupied by deep lakes; that the country to be traversed is generally lower and more even than towards the South; and that it is in many places heavily timbered.

Proceeding from the crossing of the Little Sturgeon some 15° N. of W., the soil continues for about four miles to consist of a productive loam. The road would then begin to rise (near long. 89°) along the side of the valley, the surface soil overlying a soft red steatitic rock. Then, passing over a tract of rolling, rich, clayey soil, it would follow a straight line towards the S.E. corner of Sturgeon Lake, in long. 91°, lat. 49° 30', until it reached the head of a small lake on a western feeder of Lake Neepigon, which takes its rise near the watershed, some 25 miles further south-west. Distance

45

The road would then run in a westerly direction, following up this feeder, which it would cross, and afterwards a small affluent, so about 5 miles beyond the 90° W. long., where it would reach the divide, or watershed. Distance

22

The height of land here would probably be somewhat less than at Jourdain's portage on the Savanne river (1,493 feet above the sea), since the above feeder heads some 15 miles S.W. of this point, at a short distance from the stream which runs south towards Jourdain's rapid, and which is not much longer; whilst the country northward is known, as before said, to be generally lower. Assuming the height to be 1,400 feet, and the distance from the foot of the ascent to be 60 miles, the rise would be about 650 feet, or less than 11 feet to the mile.

The road would now cross over to and follow an affluent running from the E.S.E. to the southernmost point of Sturgeon Lake. Distance

40

It would then follow the south-western shore of this lake for 15 miles.

15

Miles ... 905