

There is far more and better timber in the St. Maurice basin than in that of the Chamouchouan and by following down the Mekiscan river to lake Matagami, all the timber of the Nottaway basin traversed by route No 1 can be floated or driven down and tapped by route No 2 at the said lake Matagami.

The chief objections to routes Nos 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, apart from their increased distance, is that they pass too far west to develop the resources of any portion worth speaking of on the Hudson Bay slope within the limits of our province.

In distance route No 2 has the advantage over all the others as follows

Route No 2 is	65 miles shorter than No 1
" " "	83 " " " 3
" " "	170 " " " 4
" " "	223 " " " 5
" " "	253 " " " 6
" " "	443 " " " 7

Of course, if the much talked of ice-breaking steamers could keep the Saguenay clear a few months longer, Route No 1 continued to Ha! Ha! Bay would take first place as regards distance and have the double advantage of having two supports, Quebec and Ha! Ha! Bay or Chicoutimi instead of only one and the objectionable summits between Quebec and Lake St John would be avoided for the carrying of heavy freights, but owing to its geographical position, no point near Ha! Ha! bay can ever become an emporium for west bound freight and trains delivering the breadstuffs of the North-West there might often have to return empty.

I see by the Press that the Ontario Government intends pushing a railway northward from Toronto in view of reaching James Bay and no doubt they will, unless we can take the lead from Quebec.

One thing is certain that no railway will ever reach James Bay without substantial aid from both local and federal governments and the special advantages of the location of lines Nos 1 & 2 in view of their being continued to the Pacific as above indicated should enlist substantial aid from the Government of Great Britain also. The C. P. Ry following so close to the United States frontier, might in case of hostilities between Great Britain and our southern neighbours be broken up in a dozen places, while the direct line from Quebec to the Peace River and thence to the