

the season's operations closed, but the right of way had been cut out and cleared or timber down to the crossing of Goose Pond Brook on the Humber Valley. The energy with which the Messrs. Reid are pushing on the work, and the substantial character of the line, is worthy of all praise. There can scarcely be a doubt that the coming season will witness the completion of the line to the West Coast thus uniting the two sides of the island so long isolated from each other. What effect this great undertaking may have upon the future development of the country can only be conjectured as yet. Already it has opened up to commerce a large area of timber which would otherwise scarcely ever have been utilized.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY ALONG THE LINE OF ROUTE.

The geology of the Peninsula of Avalon has been pretty well worked out and details given in former reports, especially in those for 1868—72 and —81. The greater portion of the peninsula has been shown to be chiefly occupied by Cambrian and pre-Cambrian rocks. The Intermediate or Huronian of Mr. Murray is by far the most extensive series, being spread out over at least three-fourths of the peninsula. It surrounds a central nucleus of Laurentian age which occupies a position between the east coast and the heads of Conception and St. Mary's Bays. Resting upon these, in the above-mentioned bays, patches of Lower, Middle and Upper Cambrian are met with, unconformably super-imposed, in one case upon both the preceding systems. Still more extensive patches of the Cambrian occur in Trinity and Placentia Bays, where the Lower and Middle portions are well represented. Numerous fossil organisms characterise certain sections of this series in each locality, which have yielded some of the best and most interesting collections of the faunæ of this period in America. The thorough working out of this series in detail would, in a scientific point of view, be looked upon with the greatest possible interest. Nowhere, perhaps, on the American Continent are better or more complete sections exposed than on the shores and islands of our Great Southern and Eastern Bays. Although detached and isolated from each other, the several exposures could, by careful study of their lithological characteristics and fossil contents, afford evidence sufficiently clear to so correlate the different members as to enable the