

cumstances, it is due to those interested in the survey, on either side of the proposed lines, as well as to myself, to say, that I have been compelled to confine my instrumental examination to a single line. This compulsion has been the result of limited appropriations to meet expense, and the shortness of the time, after the survey was commenced, before uncontrollable impediments would arise from the approach of Spring.

The provisions of the charter authorize the adoption of the shortest and best route, throughout the whole line, which the country between the extremities will admit, prescribing no intermediate places as indispensable points of contact; and the settlements and business of the country affected by the location, are in no way empowered to discourage or influence the selection of the best plan of proceeding. This is of much importance, as it leaves the Engineer to the unembarrassed control of his judgment in determining the location, at all points.

It is obvious, that the shortest practicable route should always be preferred, where equal facilities of construction and accommodations to business, are offered. Otherwise, needless cost is encountered, in the first construction, for no other purpose but to ensure needless expense of annual repair, and some gratuitous labor of traction at every trip. The same remarks apply to all unnecessary ascent and descent, in the grade line. In the use of a Rail Road between any two leading points, it is always presumed, the proprietors will charge the greatest amount they can expect to obtain, in competing with other lines of passage. All extra expense of outlay must, therefore, operate as sheer loss to them.

Enterprising individuals project plans of improvement, and apply to the competent authorities for chartered rights. The Parliament, receiving such applications, are often uninformed of the merits of the work in question, and its bearings upon the best plan of internal policy. In such cases, an Engineer may be employed to subserve views and promote schemes, which are inexpedient or impracticable; and he may not know that they are so, until long continued actual examination.

The examinations for your work have been undertaken,