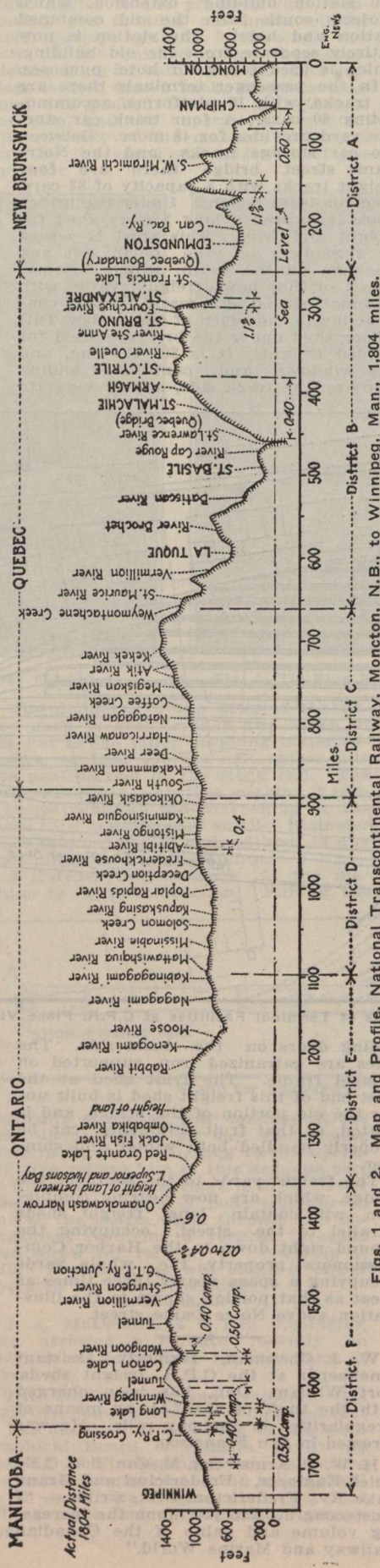


This is a detailed historical map of the Northwest Territory, showing its division into Districts A through F. The map includes major rivers like the Red, Assiniboine, and Saskatchewan, and large lakes such as Superior, Winnipeg, and Manitoba. It also depicts the borders of neighboring provinces and territories, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and the United States (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico). Key cities and towns are marked, along with various Indian Reservations and military posts. A scale bar at the top indicates distances in miles.



Figs. 1 and 2. Map and Profile. National Transcontinental Railway. Moncton, N.B., to Winnipeg, Man., 1,804 miles.

This easterly division swung north along the waters of Lac Seul and the Ogoki River as far as the 88th meridian before turning southeast. It penetrated a country little known, and uninhabited except by a few scattered families of half-starved Ojibways. A reconnaissance was made over the whole route as projected, which included a branch from Lac Seul to Fort William, on Lake Superior. Ignorance of the country, shortness of supplies, lack of transport facilities, and outbreaks of scurvy were among the difficulties with which the parties had to contend. A few caches had been established at isolated points, but, for the most part, supplies were brought in with the parties and replenished from the nearest fur-trader's outpost or Hudson's Bay Co. post.

In 1904 the Dominion government appointed the National Transcontinental Railway Commission to take over and build the line from Moncton, N.B., to Winnipeg, Man. The Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. is building west from Winnipeg to the Pacific Coast and will operate the entire line from Moncton, N.B. Under this commission the route of the eastern division was again changed and a year was spent on new surveys and the study of those already made. It was then laid out to skirt the north shores of Lakes Nipigon and Abitibi, continuing in the same general direction to the headwaters of the St. Maurice River, crossing the latter near Quebec, and proceeding thence in as direct a line as possible, without leaving Canadian territory, to Moncton, at the southeastern corner of New Brunswick. There it connects with the Intercolonial Ry., which is owned and operated by the Dominion Government and which extends to the Atlantic ports of St. John, N.B. and Halifax, N.S.

While contracts were let and construction was commenced at Winnipeg and Quebec as early as 1906, final location through the remote districts of northern Quebec and Ontario was not completed until late in 1908, and revisions have since been made from time to time. Before the most economical location was staked out, before even a satisfactory line could be projected, an enormous belt of country had to be explored and mapped. From Lake Nipigon eastward to the St. Lawrence valley, two main routes were selected for exploration. The one eventually adopted has been described above. The other followed a more or less direct line, passing close to the south shore of Lake Abitibi, touching the north end of Grand Lake Victoria, an expansion of the Ottawa River, and proceeding thence across the Gatineau and Lievre Rivers to the Mattawan and St. Maurice. An alternative route in New Brunswick, by the St. John River valley, was also surveyed.

The total distance from Moncton to