

What was really known of this country, particularly that long stretch between the Ottawa and the northern bend of Lake Superior, indicated that it was not favourable for Railway construction. Along the coast of Lake Superior, the ground was reported most impracticable and forbidding.

It was deemed advisable therefore in projecting a chain of surveys, to make the attempt of piercing through the interior at a considerable distance back from the Lake, in the hope of finding ground free from those serious obstacles which presented themselves on or near the coast.

It was at the same time considered important to make the attempt of finding a practicable line which would touch the navigable waters of Lake Superior, at the nearest point to Fort Garry, viz:—At Nepigon, or Thunder Bay.

The whole distance from Mattawa to Fort Garry was sub-divided into eleven different surveys or divisions, each from 75 to 90 miles in length, with the view of securing a continuous chain of instrumental measurements, with as little delay as possible.

The whole country along the line of projected surveys, embracing an extent of not far short of one thousand miles, being densely wooded and without a road or trail of any description, made the prosecution of the work unusually difficult.

A branch survey was authorized from the Nipissing district to Sault Ste. Marie, to connect with lines projected south of Lake Superior, and with steam boat navigation to Nepigon, or Thunder Bay.

To obtain as much information as possible within the year, an expedition was also sent northerly to James' Bay.

The last named expedition ascended to the head waters of the river Ottawa, and Northerly by the river Abbitibbe to Moose Factory, returning by Moose River and Michipicoten River to Lake Superior.

FORT GARRY TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

The country west of Fort Garry, consisting, for the most part, of open prairies, and being characterized, even up to the base of the Rocky Mountains, by physical and engineering features, remarkable for their simplicity; a continuous instrumental survey was not for the present deemed necessary.

A careful examination of all the information obtainable, showed, however, that, as a general rule, the rivers of the plains west of Fort Garry, flow in deeply eroded beds of great width, suggestive of Bridging on a gigantic scale.