

THE WORK ON THE SHORT LINE RAILWAY OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC SHOULD BE COMMENCED
WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MASKINONGÉ.

Mr. Editor:—To-day, I am going to keep the promise made last week, viz., to establish that the work on the short line railway should be begun in the county of Maskinongé. But before entering upon the details of the proof of this proposition, I will lay down as general and unconditional principles:—1st. That the chief and most important object that this Road is called upon to fulfil for the Province of Quebec, is the development in this vast and rich region as yet almost unexplored, of settlement, of the manufacture of timber and the working of mines, and the countless industries which will be favored by the great water-powers which are to be met with throughout the whole length of the proposed road; 2nd. The considerable shortening of the distance in favor of the transcontinental trade of the Dominion; 3rd. The defensive power which it will assure to the Dominion, as an interior passage for the circulation of its troops, and a strong and vigorous population massed behind the Laurentides.

Nevertheless, in consideration of the limited resources at the command of our Governments, and the ever pressing needs which are continually being produced by the rapid development of our young country, it would not be wise to sink in real estate a large capital a long time before it could bring us the least advantage.

This is what the citizens perfectly understood, when, at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, they sought for and obtained a charter for the construction of a railway which would start from the lower end of the County of Maskinongé, passing by Mattawin, cross the upper portion of the counties of Berthier, Joliette, and would reach Lake Nipissing by way of the River Ronge, Lake Desert and the Counties of Algoma and Pontiac.

Later on, as the promoters of the Maskinongé and Nipissing have set forth in a memorial which ought at the present moment to be in the hands of the Government, when the road shall have tapped the Canadian Pacific at Nipissing, it will be absolutely necessary to prolong it for the accommodation of the transcontinental trade by the shortest way, to Quebec, where it will be able to join with the Intercolonial and the Levis and Kennebec, which will carry the goods to the winter ports.