

"to be chosen, No. 3 is decidedly the best, as it is not only the shortest, but it passes through the city of Fredericton, the political and military capital of New Brunswick."

But we have shown conclusively that the claims of the Northern Central route are greater than those of any other route yet proposed, and that by it the national character of the road is secured, the commercial interests of the Dominion are best subserved, and that the cost of constructing and maintaining it will leave a large margin in its favor. Until Mr. Lawrence can disprove Major Robinson's calculations, the claims of his favorite route must give way before the vastly superior claims of the route we sincerely believe to be the best in all the respects mentioned by Mr. Lawrence.

The unblushing effrontery of Mr. Lawrence is most offensively displayed at page 25, where he actually garbles the text of Mr. Fleming's report, and by taking a piece here, and a piece there, and weaving the two into one apparently connected quotation, he makes Mr. Fleming appear to favour the very line he is pointing out as open to a serious objection. Mr. Fleming alludes to the contemplated extension of the American system of railways, and says Bangor is the extreme easterly extension as yet. "The distance thence to St. John by the route contemplated, and in part surveyed, is estimated at 200 miles. The construction of *this link* is most warmly advocated in the State of Maine and in the Province of New Brunswick; already public aid from both countries has been offered to secure its construction, and the influences and agencies at work will, I am convinced, be instrumental in finishing this line of communication at no distant day—perhaps simultaneously with, or possibly before the completion of the Intercolonial Railway,—vide Mr. Fleming's Report page 53.

Mr. Lawrence takes the first part of this, garbles it thus to suit his purpose: "Mr. Fleming in his report most justly remarks:—*"It would be manifestly unwise to overlook this projected route,"* making it apply to his pet line, No. 5 Western, and then he skips a whole long paragraph of eight lines, by doing which Mr. Fleming's meaning is distorted, and he takes up the text again at