

line, although tending to the North-West, has nevertheless been located too far South, so much so, that for 500 miles it will run through the American Desert, a sandy barren which crosses the boundary line from the United States, and stretches for some distance into Canadian territory. That the point selected for the passage through the Rocky Mountains is much higher than could have been found by going further North, Yellow-head Pass being at an elevation of 3,800 feet, as against 1,800 at the Peace River Pass. That the route selected in British Columbia runs through the wildest and most difficult part of that Province, a "Sea of mountains," as it has been most appropriately termed; and finally reaches the Pacific Ocean at Burrard Inlet, under the guns of the American Fort of San Juan. That so long as the section from Thunder Bay to Lake Nipissing is not built—and which most likely will not be for many years to come, owing to the enormously costly character of the works—our national highway will be under our control during only the season of navigation. For six months of the year its traffic will feed the railway system of the United States, and during the other six months our neighbors will compete with us for its traffic on at least equal terms. That the cost of the line as projected is excessive, the sections now under construction from the head of Lake Superior to Red River ranging from \$27,000 to \$83,000 per mile; and it may be further stated, the tenders now under consideration for the sections—127 miles in length—from Yale to Kamloops, in British Columbia, reach up to \$15,000,000, exclusive of rails and rolling stock. On this basis the 500 miles through British Columbia will probably cost fifty millions. That the line, running almost throughout its entire course in close proximity to the boundary line, can never realize the requirements of a national highway. General Hewson, as the remedy for this most alarming condition of affairs, proposes a route which, although at first sight it may appear somewhat novel and astonishing, is nevertheless

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