

height of land or summit of the Long Range Mountains at this part of their trend. The most southerly part of the great bend is reached at the crossing of Mary March's River. This section of the line crosses several extensive marshes and the country for miles around is but sparsely wooded, except in the vicinity of Joe Gload's Pond, a pretty sheet of water near the 240th mile. Beyond this the timbered areas become more and more restricted. From Mary March's River the line begins to sweep around northward and gradually climbs the central ridge or roof of the country known as the Three Topsail Ridge or White Hill Plains. It takes its name from three remarkable "tolts" lying in a nearly straight line and at about equal distances apart. These conspicuous features of the landscape are supposed to bear some resemblance to the topmasts of a ship when seen from a distance and the names are not inappropriate. The country is exceedingly bare about the height of land and bestrewn with a vast accumulation of boulders of all shapes and sizes. Innumerable lakes and ponds dot the surface for many miles around. No timber, except mere dwarf scrub in isolated patches, exists. Over this great plain, however, many extensive patches of grassy land are met with, and cattle might find ample grazing here in summer time. Mr. Reid informed me that his horses thrived well on this barrens all last summer. Horned cattle and sheep in large numbers would, I imagine, find sufficient provender for at least four months each season on this upland country. The Gaff Topsail, another of those isolated tolts, so named during the preliminary railway survey of 1890, lays westward of the Main and Mizzen Topsails about two miles. From the summit of this latter a depression in the hill-range, away to the northwestward, shows the gap formed by Kitty's Brook, which is the gateway, as it were, to the Humber Valley and the western side of the island. In the vicinity of the Gaff Topsail the country is still barren and boulder-bestrewn but a few miles beyond, or towards the headwaters of the Eastern Branch of Kitty's Brook, timber again begins to assert itself, though of a poor, stunted growth. It, however, improves greatly as the valley is followed downward, and about the junction of the east and south branches and down the main valley there is a good deal of timber suitable for railway ties, fire-wood, &c. The work of construction and laying of the rails had reached to the main crossing or Kitty's Brook when