

range are of the same character and kind as the Tobique range. The tops of the mountains are as elevated in the one range as in the other.

The exploring parties failed in finding a line through this range, to join on to the direct line through New Brunswick, but succeeded in carrying on the Eastern or Bay Chaleurs route, owing to the fortunate intervention of the valley of the Metapedia River.

The line which was tried and failed, was across from the Trois Pistoles River by the heads of Green River, and down the Psendy, or some of the streams in that part running into the Restigouche River.

A favourable line from the Trois Pistoles was ascertained along the Eagle Lake and Torcadi River, as far as the Rimouski, and it is probable that by ascending this river, and descending the Kedgwick River, this line, Route No. 4, could be completed.

But it is most improbable that it could compete in favourable grades with the Metapedia.

It will be allowing it sufficient latitude to suppose it will be equal in engineering merits, and that if accomplished, it will give the route No. 4, an apparent advantage of forty miles in distance.

A very striking characteristic in the Geological formation of North America, and which has been noticed in the writings of persons who have described the country, is the tendency of the rock strata to run in parallel ridges in courses north-easterly and south-westerly.

On referring to the General Map No. 1, and confining the attention more particularly to that portion of country east and north of the St. John River through which any line must pass—this general tendency cannot fail to be remarked.

The River St. Lawrence—the main Restigouche River and intermediate chain of mountains—the Tobique River and mountains—all the streams in New Brunswick (the main trunk of St John and a branch of the Miramichi excepted).

The Cobequid Range, the Bay of Fundy, and the high and rocky range along the Atlantic shore have all this north-east and south-western tendency.

It will be evident, therefore, that any line from the coast of Nova Scotia to the St. Lawrence has a general direction to follow, which is the most unfavourable that could have occurred for it, having to cross all these mountain ranges, streams, and vallies at right angles nearly to their courses.

The lines explored for the direct route through New Brunswick were obliged on this account to keep the elevated ground crossing the upper parts of the streams.

By so doing, a line was found to the Restigouche which may be considered just within the limits of practicability; but having very unfavourable summit levels to surmount.

And the peculiar formation of the strata and general course of the vallies and streams renders it most improbable that any further explorations to improve this direct line through New Brunswick would be attended with much success.

Very fortunately for the Eastern line, one of the branches of the north-western Miramichi presented itself as an exception to the general tendency, and enabled that line to reach the coast of the Bay Chaleurs.

The distance across in a direct line from the coast of Nova Scotia to the St. Lawrence has been stated at about 360 miles, forming the difficult and unfavourable portion of the line. When the St. Lawrence mountains are passed, then the tendency of the strata and courses north-easterly and south-westerly becomes as favourable for the remaining 200 miles along that river, as it was before adverse.

The general character of the ground between the St. Lawrence River and the mountains, is that of irregular terraces or broad vallies rising one above another by steep short banks, having the appearance as if the river had at some former periods higher levels for its waters.

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