

here and there very scant patches of stunted timber or mere scrub. The bare rock protrudes through the superficial drift in many places, giving rise to short, irregular ridges, divided by narrow, crooked ravines, which left but little room for choice in the location of the line; hence the numerous short, sharp curves, high gradients, and the many heavy cuts and fills found here. In the vicinity of Rantem, in particular, this broken character of the country is extreme.

The district is not, however, entirely destitute of natural resources. Mention has already been made of a small valley extending northward from the junction to Chapel Arm, Trinity Bay, where the soil is of excellent quality and adapted to a high state of cultivation. The valley is well wooded throughout, and were it opened up, as recommended, by a good road with suitable-sized lots laid off on either side, it might be readily availed of for settlement. The uplands also in its vicinity, and for several miles around, would afford good grazing for quite a number of cattle and sheep during the summer months.

The second section extends from Come-By-Chance to Shoal Harbor, head of Random Sound, Trinity Bay. After leaving Come-By-Chance and entering upon the main body of the island, the line strikes more inland, but on approaching Random Sound it again comes out to the coast and reaches the water's edge at Shoal Harbor. This section is very varied in character. At first it runs up the valley of Come-By-Chance River about seven miles. This valley is well wooded and the soil fairly good, especially on the bottom lands. Much of the latter appears to be adapted for cultivation. The clearings near the head of Come-By-Chance inlet show pretty clearly what the character of the soil is. A family named Adams have quite an extensive farm here, and keep a large stock of cattle, &c. Were this valley opened up by a road running through it in a similar manner to that recommended for Chapel Arm Valley, to connect with the railway line, I see no reason why an industrious population might not form a successful settlement therein.

After leaving Come-By-Chance Valley the country again becomes rugged and barren, covered only with scanty timber and much peaty soil, interspersed with bare ridges and numerous ponds.