

based on evidence of the strongest and most trustworthy character, and which may be briefly sketched, as follows:— Starting from Quebec, and following the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company's road, now under construction, to La Tuque, the line continues on up to the headwaters of the St. Maurice, thence across the watershed of the Hudson Bay region, down the Harricanaw River, crossing the Abbitibee and Moose Rivers, and through these rivers connecting with the navigation of James' and Hudson's Bays; thence crossing the Albany River, and running due West to Norway House, at the North end of Lake Winnipeg. From this point the line runs direct to Cumberland House, touching the North Bend of the Saskatchewan River, tapping its navigable waters. Thence crossing the Beaver and Arthabaska Rivers running North of, and close to Lesser Slave Lake, crossing the Smoky River, and up the Peace River Valley and Pass, and from thence down the Skeena River, the line reaches Portland Inlet, or Port Essington on the Pacific. With Quebec the summer and Halifax and St. John the winter termini on the Atlantic; with a bridge or a railway steam ferry at Quebec; and with a branch line of some 350 miles from James Bay up the Abbitibee and down the Montreal Rivers to Mattawa, to connect the line with Montreal and Toronto, General Hewson claims that this route will be, in all probability, infinitely cheaper to build than the present location; besides being 240 miles shorter from sea to sea, a saving in distance which he estimates to be equivalent to a million dollars per annum in the working expenses of but six daily trains. If found to be practicable, it will be seen at a glance, that this line possesses all the elements of a truly national and imperial highway. It is the shortest line possible between the Atlantic and the Pacific; it passes through the back country of the Dominion from ocean to ocean; it is removed from the possibility of capture by an enemy, and furnishes a line of military transport available during all seasons of the year, being