

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY ROUTE.

The discussion of the question of the route of the Intercolonial Railway, which has occupied so much space in many of the Dominion newspapers for some time past, and which has proportionably engaged public attention, has to a great extent assumed, on either side, a purely sectional aspect, and for this reason, if for no other, it becomes the interest of all who have not irrevocably committed themselves to the advocacy of one or another route, to pause, consider, and examine the whole question, lest, through external pressure, inaugurated and accumulated by the efforts of interested parties, the Government should be led to the adoption of a course which might, in the end, result in serious loss and inconvenience to the Dominion.

In entering the arena of conflict on this vitally important question, it is not the intention of the writer to follow in the wake of any of the advocates of Northern, Central, Southern, or any other possible route, but rather to show, by a few simple considerations, the necessity for better and more reliable data than has yet been furnished, before the expenditure of twenty or twenty-five millions of dollars is fully decided upon. Surely the bare mention of the sum involved should be argument enough in favor of deliberation. Without, therefore, expressing any opinion as to whether the North Shore line should or should not be ultimately adopted, I may be permitted to say that the almost indecent haste with which the advocates of that line would urge its positive and immediate acceptance upon the country, is calculated to generate a strong suspicion in any reflecting mind, that they entertain serious apprehensions that it may not gain by discussion and examination. It may be that after weighing well all the various considerations involved, the Northern line may be found the best, but with the information yet obtained it is hard for a disinterested party to come to this conclusion; and surely, if a line of railway,