

The object of this Report is to give a brief outline of the steps which have been taken to accomplish the desired objects and likewise to present in a concise form, the general results of the Survey, up to the present time.

A point near the River Ottawa, opposite Lake Nipissing was selected as the eastern end of the Survey, this point, named "Mattawa," is common to and easily connected with the Railways, built and projected, in Ontario and Quebec.

The Terminus on the Pacific coast is still an open question; its selection will probably be governed to a considerable extent, by the comparative facilities for Railway construction presented by various projected routes through British Columbia.

At the outset of the enquiry all such information regarding the country extending from Mattawa to the Pacific Coast, as it was possible to obtain, was carefully considered, in order to discover where the surveys should be made with the greatest hope of success.

It was found that the general direction of the Railway Line would be governed, by certain important physical features at various points through the country to be traversed.

Prominently among these may be mentioned; 1st. the very rugged country along the shores of, and for some distance back of Lakes Huron and Superior; 2nd. Lake Nepigon; 3rd. Lake of the Woods; 4th. Lake Manitoba; 5th. The Rocky Mountains, and lastly the Gold, Selkirk and Cascade ranges of mountains in British Columbia.

The leading features of the country naturally divide the survey into three great divisions.

First.—From Mattawa to Fort Garry.

Second.—From Fort Garry to the Rocky Mountains.

Third.—From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast;

It will be convenient to refer to the subject under these separate heads.

MATTAWA TO FORT GARRY.

Very little information could be obtained respecting a great extent of the country between Mattawa and Fort Garry. It had scarcely been penetrated more than a few miles back of the River Ottawa and the Lakes Huron and Superior, except on the canoe routes which lead to the outlying posts of the Hudson Bay Company. Along the chain of Lakes extending from Fort William to Manitoba, however, its character was better understood.