
The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Ry.

AT the Session of the Ontario Legislature in 1901 a vote was taken for the preliminary survey of a railway to extend from North Bay to the Temiskaming District. Surveyors were placed in the field and a line was located during the summer of 1901, and the winter of 1902. At the Session of 1902 an Act was passed authorizing the construction of the line by a commission to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Tenders were called for, and on Oct. 3rd, 1902, the contract for building the line between North Bay and New Liskeard, a distance of 110 miles, was awarded to Mr. A. R. Macdonell; work was commenced immediately, and at the time of the visit of the Press Association the line was graded northerly 65 miles from North Bay and the rails laid for about 35 miles. Grading is being done all along the line, and the contract calls for the finishing of the work by December 31st, 1904. It is fully expected that the work will be finished well within the time.

The railway, for a new country, appears to be of easy construction, following the valley of the North River to the height of land between the Ottawa and Lake Nipissing waters, thence over comparatively level country to the Temiskaming Valley. The line passes through a heavily timbered virgin forest throughout its whole length, composed of large white pine, spruce, black birch, balsam, cedar, hemlock, maple, and other timbers.

The land along the line, while rich in timber and minerals, is only, in parts, suitable for agriculture until the Temiskaming Valley is reached. Surveys are now being made for the extension of the railway through the Temiskaming Valley to form an entrance to the 16,000,000 acre clay belt lying beyond the height of land between the waters of the Ottawa River and Hudson Bay. It is expected that the extension now being located will connect with the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific in the vicinity of Lake Abitibi, and will form a direct connection between the City of Toronto and the new trans-continental line, and will be capable of a further extension to James Bay.

A. W. CAMPBELL,

Asst. Commissioner of Public Works.