

Lower Canada between Montreal on the one side, and Quebec on the other, falling on the Railroad from Montreal to Richmond, and from Quebec to Richmond not merely to Portland but to Boston and New York—an object attained through the proposed line being the shortest possible route from Richmond to any point common to these three cities—and requiring no more to perfect the communications, than the construction of 30 Miles of Railroad from Island Pond to St. Johnsbury.

The Committee had further to consider—That the adoption of the Eastern routes desired by the Portland Company would deprive them of all the advantages of a Southern connection, unless they were prepared to construct an independent line from a point near Lennoxville to the boundary line, at or near Stanstead—a distance of about 30 miles—and unless the Passumpsic Road extended their line from St. Johnsbury to the same point, a distance of about 50 Miles. It was, therefore, apparent to them, that the Island Pond route, by the Western Coaticooke—even adding the 16 Miles demanded by the Portland Company—required only the construction from near Lennoxville, of 42 miles of Railroad at their expense, and gave them all the desired Southern connections, while by the Eastern, or Halls Stream route, they would have, in the Portland road, 38 Miles to build; and to connect with the Passumpsic Road at Stanstead, 30 Miles; making together 68 miles, as against 42 on the Western Coaticooke.

Referring to the Stanstead route, the Committee found that while it would afford the same connections with the South, it was exposed to the following serious objections, even granting that in point of gradients, it could be made equal:—First, it increased the distance, according to the Reports of the Engineers, no less than 7½ Miles. Secondly, it advanced the Portland Road toward the West, 15 Miles beyond Island Pond towards Rouses Point. And lastly, it would cause the Company to raise nearly one half more money than required on the Western Coaticooke, to complete the line on the terms stated by the Portland Company. On the other hand, the Committee recognised the fact that, it would possess a considerably larger Way Business than the



Inches

