

Over ... 384

the low level of about 830 feet above the sea, and enter on the level clay country, that extends north of the tributaries of the Ottawa, which rise in the Lawrentian formation, to Hudson's Bay; and for several hundred miles west, to the Lawrentian height of land between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. This vast extent of entirely arable land, of a clayey, stubborn nature, but found to be capable of improvement and productive, since wheat is successfully grown at New Brunswick House, in lat. $49^{\circ} 08'$, 45 miles north of the proposed line, whilst the line of limit to wheat cultivation runs still further north, offers a more favourable line for the construction of a railroad, and at the same time a country more fit for settlement, than that to the south, which lies in the Lawrentian formation, and is generally poor, sandy and rocky. The road would therefore now be carried a little to the north of the direct line, through this clay country, which it would traverse for nearly 250 miles.

Beginning with a W.N.W. course along its southern limit, and crossing the Waratowaha or south branch of the Abbitibi at the end of about 20 miles, it would reach long. 83° near the head of Carp Lake on the south branch of Moose River; 90 miles north of its source, whence it flows towards Hudson's Bay, and about 60 miles north of the termination of the line surveyed by D. Sinclair in 1867. Distance with the sinuosities*

From Carp Lake the road would continue W.N.W. through a country comparatively low, to the north-end of Minisabe Lake, (long. $83^{\circ} 50'$) on Moose River,† and thence, passing some 12 miles to the south of Cross Lake, to the 85th meridian, a little north of 49° lat.; whence the road would run nearly due west to 86° long. The absence of further details must be attributed to the little knowledge we have of the country through which this portion of the line would pass. Total distance, allowing for sinuosities

The road will now have re-entered the basin of the St. Lawrence, (the country becoming more difficult and undulating) and continuing a due west course for about 12 miles, cross first a branch of the Pie River, and then the river itself flowing through a rich valley from 1 to 3 miles wide towards Lake Superior

From this point the road would run for the next 80 miles, with an average elevation of 200 feet or more above Lake Superior, along the hilly undulations forming the northern slope of the mountains which border the Lake, and which extend here from 20 to 30 miles north of it.

Between Pie River and the foot of Long Lake in long. $87^{\circ} 04'$, it would cross at the end of 14 miles the valley of the Little Pie about 2 miles wide, and composed of rich, clayey soil, which extends round

Miles ... 663

* Most of the foregoing details are taken from Al. Russell's valuable work on the Hudson's Bay Territories.

† The latitudes and longitudes must here be considered as approximate.

All this has been fully confirmed by Mr. St. John's late exploratory trip.