

better drained. There are few signs of cultivation, and the land is covered with a low scrubby underbrush. The uncultivated appearance is explained by the peculiar method of land surveying adopted by the early settlers. Each family was given a narrow front on the river, with a long strip of land extending back. What we saw were the back door ends of these shoestring farms. The river fronts, which we saw in ascending the river on



RAILWAY PORTAGE AROUND GRAND RAPIDS

our return, presented the aspect of well tilled and prosperous farms. From Selkirk a spur track leads to the steamboat landing, making the most northerly steam railway track on the American continent. The Colville completed her lading here during the day, and at about 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon started on her voyage down the river. At this place the river is