

Saguenay, is now completed to a distance of about 49 or 50 miles. About 14 miles still remain to be completed, but this piece may however be travelled in winter vehicles.

In 1861, three and a-half miles of this road were finished and 50 chains were cleared. The road, exclusive of the bridges, cost \$326 a-mile.

Thirty-eight bridges, having a total length of 420 feet, have been built; the cost of these has been \$374 40.

The wood required for the bridge over the River Malbaie was contracted for, and has been delivered on the spot. The quality of the soil through which this road passes is tolerably good. The wood is very fine and lofty, especially in the forests extending from Lake Ha! Ha! to within about 7 miles of the first settlements of Grande Baie. The soil in this part is also of superior quality.

This road will be favorable to the speedy settlement of the Upper Saguenay; nearly all the surveyed lands on the Lower Saguenay are taken, and signs of clearing may be seen nearly everywhere along the road.

The various kinds of grain grown in the neighborhood of the road are peas, barley, wheat, and rye.

The crops this year did not suffer from frost.

COUNTIES OF SAGUENAY AND CHARLEVOIX.

Road from Black River to the mouth of the Saguenay.

Conductor—JOHN McLAREN.

Balance of appropriation, 1860	-	-	-	-	\$6 52
Amount of do. 1861	-	-	-	-	400 00
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					\$406 52
Amount expended	-	-	-	-	406 52

Three thousand and six arpents have been completed this year upon this road, and it can now be used for summer vehicles over an extent of five miles. There remains still to be finished an extent of 16 miles, viz: 4 miles in Callières, and 12 miles in Saguenay. Twelve bridges have been constructed at a cost of \$125.

This road has cost about \$400 per mile.

Mr. McLaren, in his report, thus expresses himself:—"The soil along the road, as well as in the interior, is a yellow loam, and is very suitable for agricultural purposes."

On the whole extent of the road, places accessible by water are immediately settled, and lots have been taken up by settlers even in advance of the completed part of the road.

Water-powers are numerous, and of extraordinary strength. The crop has been excellent, and has not been damaged either by frost or insects. The settlers are full of hope, and all they require to enable them to establish their children in the vicinity, is the construction of colonization roads.

The information which follows on the state of agriculture and colonization on the river Saguenay, is from the pen of David E. Price, Esq., M.P.P., and I have found his suggestions so interesting that I have considered it my duty to insert them in this Report.

Mr. Price writes as follows:—

"As I have already informed you, the crop of last year produced but little on account of the wet season; but in spite of this misfortune, the settlers have got through the winter well, and have been enabled this year to sow a considerable quantity of grain, the greater part of which was obtained from Montreal, Quebec, and other parishes on the River St. Lawrence. The crop has been abundant, and of good quality.

"The month of June and part of July were rainy, and during the remainder of the season till October, the weather was warm and dry, and frost did not appear till all the crops had been harvested.

"Wheat having turned out well last year, was sowed in large quantities this year, and yielded a good crop. With the exception of an occasional appearance in a few marshy places and sheltered fields, the weevil has not been seen. Those who sowed wheat have been well remunerated.