

JAMES J. WHITE, ESQ.,

Managing Director M. & N. Railway.

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to again report to you on progress made by the Engineers up to 'Xmas last. In my first and second reports I stated ten miles had been located, starting from a point near Maskinongé Station, Canadian Pacific Railway, and running in a north-westerly direction to the foot of the Laurentian Range. This consists chiefly of sand, gravel and clay loam.

Three ravines will have to be crossed; they are about two hundred feet wide and twenty-five or thirty deep. As timber is very plentiful in the vicinity, I think trestle bridges will be best until such times as we can have the construction trains running.

From the River St. Lawrence to the foot of the Laurentian Range, the land is all under cultivation, and as I passed through during harvest time, am prepared to say I seldom came across such crops in any part of Canada.

On striking the mountains a different scene presents itself. vast forests of magnificent timber meet the eye, the value of which cannot be over-estimated, and, on crossing the Range, fertile valleys are to be met with frequently—thriving villages here and there, surrounded by prosperous farmers.

With regard to minerals, as yet I have seen nothing but graphite and iron. Reliable reports lately received from this part speak of the country from St. Alexis to Mattawin River as being, "well timbered, rich land, and abounding in minerals." The lakes are teeming with fish, principally lake and river trout, and pickerel and pike of a very fine size and quality.

Magnificent water-power is to be had all through this country, which no doubt ere long will be all taken up for manufacturing purposes.

In addition to the ten miles of location, a survey of forty more has been made by Mr. C. E. Towle, C. E., the result has been more than satisfactory, and I feel sure that on locating the line over the mountains, the work will be found to be comparatively light; thence to end of route I do not anticipate any trouble.

Yours Respectfully,

W. McL. MAINGY,
Chief Engineer.

OTTAWA, March 1st '87.