

“ region which thus in a state of nature supports animal life in pro-
 “ fusion, must be naturally rich, as regards its soil and climate. It
 “ is, in fact, equal to sustain as dense an agricultural population
 “ as any area of equal extent on the face of the globe.”

But all this is admitted and the only question I propose to discuss is, how is it to be got at ? The opinion of Mr. Dawson on this point a year and a half ago, is clearly set forth in the report referred to ; a road through the navigable lakes and rivers with portages and ordinary roads to complete the communication being all he considers necessary for the present, and that the idea of a railway, however theoretically good is practically premature ; for he argues “ while admitting the great advantages which would result from a “ work of this kind, it must be borne in mind that the means for “ its construction cannot at present be obtained. There is no “ amount of argument, as to prospective advantages, which could “ procure the investment of twenty millions of dollars, which “ would be about its cost, in an undeveloped region, such as that “ through which it would pass,” and further he says : “ before “ such a work was undertaken, the country would have to be “ rendered accessible, as I have already said, by some such means “ of communication as I have suggested.”

Mr. Russell also in his publication of the “ North West Territories considered in relation to Canada” gives Mr. Jarvis’ opinion respecting railways in the following words :

“ He says that many persons suppose that Railways will in a “ great measure supersede Canals, but that it is evident that “ this conclusion has been reached without consideration, especially when applied to Channels of great trade.” Speaking of the trade of the West, he says : “ In regard to the trade “ under consideration, it may be remarked that the great mass is “ composed of bulky and heavy articles, of such general value as “ materially feels the weight of transport charges, especially if “ the distance moved be great, and cannot under the general con-