

THE RAILWAY ROUTE.

To all who understand public feeling in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it is well known that the consummation of the scheme of Confederation would never have been attained, had there not been incorporated in its provisions, a certainty that the Intercolonial Railroad would be built, and that the most important sections of the Province of New Brunswick would be ensured a connection by rail with the capital of the Dominion.

Long before the idea of an Intercolonial Railway was conceived, a military road from Quebec to Halifax, through New Brunswick, had been commenced. This idea probably led to the grander one of rendering the road more useful in a military point of view, and more conducive to the prosperity of the Colonies, by making it a Railway. The project of a common military road was then abandoned, and two officers of the highest engineering character were detailed to superintend the survey of a line which would combine the least number of miles with the greatest safety from available points of attack from the only quarter whence it is likely to proceed. After thorough examination, assisted by an efficient staff of officers, Major Robinson, having explored and accurately surveyed the several routes, after mature deliberation, decided upon that, not only best adapted for a military road, but the only one considered practicable, from the fortified City of Quebec, through British territory, to the Atlantic Coast.

Since that time, the hopes of the different Provinces have rested more upon Major Robinson's route than upon any other that has been proposed. Year after year passed away, successive Delegations from the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canadas met, and Representatives were sent to the British Government to secure its construction, but from many and various causes, it was found impossible to bring about anything like a satisfactory arrangement. At length the scheme of Union was