

navigation, afford the only present means of transport for the local business of Montreal; and the large amount of Freight and Passengers which accumulate at that point from the South, West and North, during all seasons of the year, which are destined to points below Montreal, in the Great Valley of the St. Lawrence; and if it can be demonstrated that the North Shore Railway, when completed, will afford superior advantages for this business, there can be no doubt that it will receive, at least its proper proportion.

The Country lying upon the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, is exceedingly rich in Agricultural, Manufacturing and Mineral resources. The Farming lands, extending from the River back to the Forests, a distance of from twenty to fifty miles; and embracing about 2,708,840 acres, are now and have for more than a Century past, been under a high state of Cultivation, producing the finest crops of hay; oats; wheat; corn; barley; potatoes; etc., in great abundance.

As a Grazing country, it is unsurpassed.

The present population is something over 220,000.

There are twenty-six large Saw Mills in operation, within easy reach of the line, manufacturing 340,000,000 feet Board measure per annum, of Merchantable Lumber.

There are also four large Furnaces, which, although being worked at their minimum capacity, turn out 8,000 tons of Iron annually.

There are also, one large Foundry; two large Woollen Manufacturies; three large Machine Shops; one Nail Factory; three large Flouring Mills; one Paper Mill; and three large Tanneries; all in successful operation, along, and in the immediate vicinity of the line of the Railway.

The City of Three Rivers, situated about midway between Quebec and Montreal, and at the junction of the Piles Branch with the Main Line of the Railway, has a population of about 9,000; and is rapidly increasing both in population, and importance as a Commercial and Manufacturing Centre.

The Dry Goods merchants, Grocers, and Iron Merchants of this City import goods to the amount of \$900,000 annually; and one Fur dealer exports annually to the United States, furs to the value of \$130,000. During the last season, there were shipped from this City, over the Branch of the Grand Trunk Railway, extending from a point opposite Three Rivers to Arthabaska, for Boston and other markets in the United States, 3,600 tons of Hay, and 75,000 bushels of Oats.

At intervals of from seven to nine miles, all along the line, are situated fine and growing parish Villages, many of which, like Lorette; Ste. Jeanne de Neuville; Cap Santé; Ste. Anne; River du Loup; Berthier; l'Assomption; l'Épiphanie; &c., &c.; are already industrial centres of considerable importance; and with the stimulant afforded by a Railway passing through or near