

long line of defenceless frontier; and consequently, the little confidence placed by English capitalists in anything appertaining to Canada.

7th.—The enormous expense of the undertaking, supposing it practicable.

8th.—The cost of railroad transit across the Continent, and consequently the small amount of traffic to be expected.

9th.—And last, not least, the anti-colonial theories of the day, and the growing dislike to spend money on our foreign possessions.

This is, however, not a Colonial, but a commercial and imperial question which concerns the whole nation. That unimaginative Englishmen should not fight for an idea, may so far show their good sense; but that they should be so indifferent and shortsighted as to give up that commercial supremacy which has been so slowly and dearly acquired, and on which the greatness of this country depends, without a struggle to retain it (and that not a struggle by arms, so as to expose the country to the uncertain risks of war, but one of commercial rivalry); or merely in order to avoid the temporary burden of an expenditure, the wisest England could ever make, is a thing not to be understood. We must, therefore, look into the matter more closely as the importance of the case requires, and weigh the above objections one by one, in order to show how groundless they are; beginning with the geographical difficulties, as an indispensable preliminary to the others.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFICULTIES.

It has hitherto been generally believed, for want of more ample information, that the country north of Lake Superior was broken and barren in the extreme; thus rendering it unfit for settlement, and consequently to serve for an Overland communication with the west. So that the only feasible road to connect Canada with the North West Territory and the Pacific, must unavoidably be through the State of Minnesota.

Such a conclusion can only have been founded upon the forbidding aspect of the mountains which form the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron; and which, as seen by travellers from the water, with their bold naked sides and peaks, treeless and bare of vegetation, present, it is true, a scene of thorough desolation. But the explorations which were made last year in that direction by the Canadian Government (the results of which were kindly communicated to the writer by Mr. Russell, Crown land agent in Ottawa), prove that this apparently formidable range of mountains has no breadth, and is as circumscribed in a northerly direction as its southern flanks are precipitous. So much so, that at one point the watershed towards Hudson's Bay comes within eight miles of Lake Superior; whilst to the north lies a vast level country of clayey formation, extending with little interruption to Hudson's Bay. Good crops of wheat are raised at New Brunswick House, on Moose river, in lat. 49°35', and as the level tract of country south of this is (with the exception of some portions north of the Montreal river, which are poor and sandy), of much the same quality