

# Trans-Canada Railway.

## Engineer's Report of the Physical Features of the Line and of the resources of the Territory tributary to the Railway.

The following is a report of the country from Roberval, Province of Quebec, to Port Simpson, B. C., through which will be located the Trans-Canada Railway. This information is compiled from actual surveys made by the different Provincial Governments, by the Geological Survey of Canada, and by the Engineering parties sent out at various times by the Dominion Government. In each case the source of information is mentioned in the report, so that its accuracy may be easily verified. It will be at once apparent that no difficulties of a serious nature, from a topographical point of view, exist on the location chosen for the main line of the Trans-Canada Railway, and that with branch lines judiciously laid out at various points a great portion of the northern part of the Dominion will be tapped and developed, and the riches of its soil and forests be brought within easy reach of the large population which it is confidently expected the construction of the Trans-Canada Railway will cause to flow into this rich heritage of the Canadian people.

All the resources which tend to make a country rich and prosperous are to be found along the line of the Trans-Canada Railway, and, leaving out the minerals, indications of which are to be seen at various points along the line, the land and forests alone will support millions of people in a prosperous and comfortable state.

Engineering parties of the Trans-Canada Railway are at present in the field, and information as to the short gap of some 200 miles in the territory of Keewatin, which has not yet been thoroughly explored, will soon be known. No difficulty, from a construction point of view, is anticipated on this short distance, as the Geological Survey reports a level country with soil of the same quality as that on the south side of the Albany River.

### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

From information compiled from Geological Survey reports and explorations made for the Crown Lands Department by H. O'Sullivan, D.L.S., F.R.G.S.

From Roberval to the western limit of the Province of Quebec, a distance of some 375 miles, the line runs through a good farming country, the soil being chiefly clay. The first thirty miles are already settled. At one hundred and thirty miles the summit of 1200 feet between Roberval and James Bay is reached, and from actual surveys taken the maximum west gradient of 1 p.c. can easily be had. From the summit at Lake Chigabiche, the country is a gentle rolling plain in the direction of James Bay, so much so that in places there is not a difference of 100 feet in a distance of 100 miles. The height of land between the St. Lawrence and James Bay waters is scarcely perceptible; the waters interlock and some of the lakes discharge both ways during spring freshets. On the lower part of the Chamouchouan River the country has been overrun by fire, and is now covered with second growth timber, but on the upper part of the river the primitive forest still remains, the timber being chiefly spruce.

The soil in the valley of the Mekiscan is of excellent quality, being chiefly grayish blue clay covered with rich vegetable mould and well covered with mixed timber, mostly soft wood. There is an abundance of large poplar, which grow like large elms, with clear trunks from 50 to 60 feet high without branches, and from which half a dozen saw-logs may be had from one tree. At Notta-

way River near the discharge of Lake Matagami, all the timber of the Upper Nottaway basin, some ten or fifteen thousand square miles, can be concentrated and manufactured on the spot. There is an abundance of pulpwood all through the country, and immense water powers are to be had on the Nottaway and Rupert Rivers.



SAMPLE OF SPRUCE 12 IN. TO 24 IN. IN DIA., A FEW MILES INTERIOR FROM MOUTH OF MOOSE RIVER.

In the vicinity of James Bay the only mountain to be seen is Mount Sherreh, the highest summit being scarcely 500 feet above sea level, about mid-way between Rupert House and East Main River. In every other direction the