

PRELIMINARY REPORT.

MONTREAL, 6th September, 1872.

SIR,—In the month of July last, I was honored with your instructions to proceed to Prince Edward District, and make some preliminary explorations of the country to determine the most favorable route for a railway, from a suitable point on the Grand Trunk line, to the town of Picton, and thence to a connection with the navigation of Lake Ontario, at the extremity of Long Point.

This section of Ontario, now seeking rail connection with the main commercial artery of the Dominion, forms an extensive peninsula, extending into Lake Ontario, being bounded on the north by the Bay of Quinté, and on the south by the lake. At the point of junction with the main land, or at the "Carrying Place," it possesses a width of about one and a half miles. From this narrow neck it rapidly widens and extends into the lake, a distance of forty-one miles, possessing in some places an extreme width of twenty-eight miles. Many deep and spacious bays from the Lake and Bay of Quinté penetrate into the county, and at moderate expense may be converted into good harbors for the vessels navigating those waters.

The total area of land held, as given by the Census Returns, amounts, to 227,941 acres, or about 356 square miles, and contains a population, according to the same authority, of 20,336 souls.

Taking the town of Picton as a central point in the District, both geographically as well as for trade and commerce, a distance of nearly twenty miles, in an air line, exists