

predecessor—one to Penetanguishene and one to Nottawasaga. But it did not appear to me that these explorations entirely sufficed to a full and accurate knowledge of the several localities and lines of country within the limit of adoption. I accordingly instituted surveys of three additional routes, and by the five lines thus traversed, the whole of the country north, and north-west, north-east, and east of Barrie, has been thoroughly examined, and its conditions fully ascertained.

Before proceeding to submit my opinions in relation to the facts disclosed by these surveys, I am induced by the knowledge that some agitation has obtained in regard to the selection of a route for this Northern Division, (apparently arising from the competition of local or personal interests,) to observe that I have been permitted to enter upon and pursue this enquiry wholly free from influence or dictation, and entirely without prejudice—and that in offering the results of my judgment to your decision, I rely upon them only, so far as their value can be proven in an Engineering and Commercial view.

I propose, then, to consider those lines under the following divisions :

Explorations
made.

- No. 1. North East to Penetanguishene.
- No. 2. North East to Victoria Bay.
- No. 3. North and North West, through Flos and Vespra to Nottawasaga.
- No. 4. West and North to Nottawasaga.
- No. 5. West and North West to Collingwood.

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Now there are certain general conditions by which these routes must be respectively and collectively

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