

rence has a general direction to follow, which is the most unfavourable that could have occurred for it, having to cross all these mountain ranges, streams, and valleys at right angles nearly to their courses.

"The exploring parties failed to find a line through this range to join on the direct line through New Brunswick, but succeeded in carrying on the eastern or Bay Chaleurs' route, owing to the fortunate intervention of the valley of the Metapediac River.

"The line which was tried, and failed, was across from the Trois Pistoles River by the head of Green River, and down the Pseudy, or some of the streams in that part running into the Restigouche River.

"A favourable line from Trois Pistoles was ascertained from Eagle Lake and Torcadi River as far as the Rimousqui; and it is probable that by ascending this river and ascending the Kedgewick River, this line (route No. 4) could be completed.

"But it is most improbable that it could compete in favourable grades with the Metapediac.

"It will be allowing it sufficient latitude to suppose it will be equal in engineering merits, and that if accomplished it will give the route No. 4 an apparent advantage of 40 miles in distance.

"A very striking characteristic in the geological formation of North America, and which has been noticed in the writings of persons who described the country, is the tendency of the rock strata to run in parallel ridges in courses north-easterly and south-westerly.

"On referring to the General Map No. 1, and confining the attention more particularly to that portion of country east and north of the St. John River, through which any line must pass, this general tendency cannot fail to be remarked:

"The River St. Lawrence, the main Restigouche River and intermediate chain of mountains, the Tobique River and mountains, all the streams of New Brunswick (the main trunk of St. John and a branch of the Miramichi excepted);

"The Tobequid range, the Bay of Fundy, and the high and rocky range along the Atlantic shore, have all this north-east and south-western tendency.

"The lines explored for the direct route through New Brunswick were obliged, on this account, to keep the elevated ground crossing the upper parts of the streams.

"By so doing a line was found to the Restigouche, which may be considered just within the limits of practicability, but having very unfavourable summit levels to surmount.

"And the peculiar formation of the strata and general course of the valleys and streams, renders it most improbable that any further explorations to improve this direct line through New Brunswick would be attended with much success.

"Very fortunately for the eastern line, one of the branches of the north-western Miramichi presented itself as an exception to the general tendency, and enabled that line to reach the coast of the Bay Chaleurs.

"The distance across in a direct line from the coast of Nova Scotia to the St. Lawrence has been stated at about 360 miles, forming the difficult and unfavourable portion of the line. When the St. Lawrence mountains are passed, then the tendency of the strata and courses north-easterly and south-westerly becomes as favourable for the remaining 200 miles along that river as it was before adverse.

"The general character of the ground between the St. Lawrence River and the mountains is that of irregular terraces or broad valleys, rising one above another by steep short banks, having the appearance as if the river had at some former periods higher levels for its waters.

"The streams run along these valleys parallel with the course of the St. Lawrence until, meeting some obstruction, they turn suddenly off and find their way over precipices and falls to the main river."

J. H. PRICE,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Land Department,
Montreal, February 1, 1849.

Enclosure 3 in No. 18.

Encl. 3 in No. 18.

EXTRACTS from the REPORT of Colonel R. Z. MUDGE and G. W. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, Esq., Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1840

No. 1. IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, dated July 9, 1839, requiring us to proceed to Her Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, for the purpose of making investigations "respecting the nature and configuration of the territory in dispute" between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America, and to "report" which of the three following lines presents the best defined continuity of highland range:—

"First. The line claimed by the British Commissioners from the source of the Chaudière to Mars Hill.

"Secondly. The line from the source of the Chaudière to the point at which a line drawn from that source to the western extremity of the Bay des Chaleurs, intercepts the due north line.

"Thirdly. The line claimed by the Americans from the source of the Chaudière to the point at which they make the due north line end."

We have the honour to present the following report of our proceedings, and of the results which we have arrived at, accompanied with a map, marked A, of the territory in dispute, and of the countries adjacent to it, together with a sheet, marked B, of extracts from other maps, and containing a section and a sketch, all of which are alluded to in this report.

Having found the physical geography of the disputed territory very much at variance with

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