

down freight of the pig iron for 1864 is estimated at \$5,500. During the winter the iron, in order to keep up a regular supply for the English market, has to be hauled on sleds to the Houlton Road terminus of the St. Andrew's Railway, a distance of nine miles, thence sent by Railway to St. Andrews; and from that place shipped by schooner to St. John; and every ton thus transported from Woodstock to St. John, costs one dollar and twenty-five cents additional. With a Railway communication between Woodstock and St. John, the iron could be sent for two dollars throughout the year, and thus on one half the quantity produced there would be a saving in transport within the Province of one dollar and a quarter per ton. The up freight for the Works is estimated for 1864 at \$4,500. Thus for 1864, from the works of the Iron Company alone, the proposed Railway would receive a traffic at present worth \$10,000.

Mr. Best states to your Committee that if there were continuous Railway communication from St. John to Woodstock, so that mineral coal could be delivered at the works at a rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton per mile, it could be used profitably for iron smelting in this County; and that every description of iron, whether for the varied uses to which malleable iron is put, or for castings, could be produced in Carleton County and sent to St. John at a price so low as to compete successfully with English and Scotch irons. In fact, the result would be that three-fourths of the importation of British and Foreign iron would cease.

Of the crude material we have such abundance as would not only supply our own consumption but furnish almost any amount needed for exportation. A notion is abroad in some parts of the Province that the present company monopolizes all the iron mines of Carleton. But the truth is that the portion held by lease by the present company is a mere patch compared with the enormous extent of our mines. The Iron District runs in a North Easterly direction from the Parish of Richmond across the whole extent of the County. How far it extends into the State of Maine does not matter in the present inquiry. From Richmond it extends across the whole Parish of Wakefield, then crosses the River and extends up the Begaguimic River. Mr. Best has traced it a distance of some twenty eight miles. Mr. Cadman, Engineer of the Iron Works, while on the Tobique River, found the same Iron Belt extending as far