

HALIFAX RAILWAY, AND PUBLIC WORKS IN CANADA. 5

Enclosure in No. 1.

BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA.REPORT on the Proposed Trunk Line of Railway from an Eastern Port in Nova Scotia,
through New Brunswick, to Quebec.

Encl. in No. 1.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 31, 1848.

THREE principal lines or routes for a trunk line of railway present themselves for consideration; and by combining portions of two of these lines together, a fourth and fifth route may be formed.

1st. Commencing at Halifax and crossing the province of Nova Scotia to a port in the Bay of Fundy, from thence by a steamer to St. John, in New Brunswick, and then by Fredericton along the St. John River to the Grand Falls.

From the Grand Falls by the best practicable route across to the mouth of the Rivière du Loup, on the St. Lawrence, and by the right bank of the St. Lawrence to Quebec.

The distance by this route would be as follows:—

	Miles.
Halifax to Windsor	45
Windsor to Annapolis	85
Annapolis to entrance Bay of Fundy	11
Across Bay of Fundy to St. John (by sea)	45
St. John to Fredericton	65
Fredericton to Woodstock	62
Woodstock to the Grand Falls	71
The Grand Falls to the mouth of the Rivière de Loup	106
Rivière du Loup to Quebec	110
Total distance Halifax by the St. John River to Quebec	600

This line may be termed a mixed route, by railway and steam-boat.

2nd. Commencing at Halifax and running to Truro at the head of the Bay of Fundy, thence over the Cumberland Mountains to Amherst, then along the coast from Bay Verte to Shediac, thence by a north-westerly course, crossing the rivers Richibucto and Miramichi above the flow of the tide, so as not to interfere with the navigation.

Then by the valley of the north-western Miramichi to Bathurst, on the Bay Chaleurs, along the coast of this bay to the Restigouche river, and by it and the valley of the river Metapedia to the St. Lawrence, and by the right bank of the St. Lawrence to Quebec.

The distance by this route would be as follows:—

	Miles.
Halifax to Truro	55
Truro to Amherst and Bay Verte	69
Bay Verte to Shediac	26
Shediac to Miramichi River	74
Miramichi River to Bathurst	56
Bathurst to the Eel River, near Dalhousie	48
Dalhousie to the mouth of the Metapedia River	30
Metapedia River to the mouth of the Nageet River, near the St. Lawrence	86
Along the St. Lawrence from this point to Quebec	191
Total distance by this route	635

This, for the sake of reference, may be called the Halifax and eastern or Bay Chaleurs route, through New Brunswick to Quebec.

3rd. Commencing at the harbour of Whitehaven, near Canso, at the north-eastern extremity of Nova Scotia, thence along the Atlantic coast to Country Harbour and valley of the river St. Mary, thence by or near to Pictou and along the northern shore to Bay Verte.

From Bay Verte to or near to the bend of Petitcodiac, thence across to Boistown, and northerly to the Restigouche River, crossing it several miles to the east of the Grand Falls.

From thence by the most direct and practical course to the Trois Pistoles River, and along the right bank of the St. Lawrence to Quebec.

The distance by this route would be nearly as follows:—

	Miles.
Whitehaven to Country Harbour	40
Country Harbour to St. Mary's Valley and Pictou	64
Pictou and along the coast to Bay Verte	77
Bay Verte to Bend of Petitcodiac	40
Petitcodiac to Boistown	80
Boistown to the crossing of the Restigouche River	115
Restigouche River to Trois Pistoles, by the Kedgwick and Rimouski Vallies	105
Along the St. Lawrence to Quebec	131
Total distance from Whitehaven by Boistown to Quebec	652