

purpose, the Company was organized on the 20th of July 1848, and soon thereafter the whole line was placed under contract and the work commenced.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE.

Commencing at the foot of Preble Street in the City of Portland, your line follows a Southwesterly course passing through the towns of Westbrook, Gorham, Buxton, Hollis, Waterborough, Alfred North Berwick and Berwick to Salmon Falls, a distance of about 49 miles, where it unites with the Boston and Maine Rail Road.

The topographical features of the country along your line, are somewhat irregular, yet the changes in the surface are gradual, and the uplands are of such gentle slopes, as to add much to the beauty of the country and the value of the soil; while they interpose no serious obstacles to a favorable location of the road.

Traversing the country as your road does, in a direction nearly parallel to the coast, the principal water courses which convey the drainage of the country to the sea, have generally a transverse direction to that of your line. This would seem to indicate an unfavorable feature in the topography of the country, precluding in a measure, the location of a road which should possess the essential requisites of favorable alignment, easy grades, and economy in construction. This, however, from the peculiar formation of the country, and the moderate elevation of the grounds dividing these streams, constitutes no material objection to a favorable location of your road. On a portion of the Middle and Western Divisions of the road, the line passes over a succession of sandy plains of moderate width and elevation, skirted by uplands of great fertility, and retaining all the general characteristics of those on other portions of the route.

The soil on that portion of the line between Portland and Gorham is mostly clay, but on attaining the more elevated grounds at that place and descending to the valley of the Saco river, it is of a more favorable character; sand and gravel predominating for a considerable portion of the distance. West of that stream the soil is, and in the immediate vicinity of the line with some exceptions, is of a sandy character.

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