

At the last Session of the Legislature, the subsidy of 10,000 acres of land per mile was renewed and the Company reorganized.

Experimental surveys were made between Paspébiac and Matapédia, a distance of 110 miles, in 1872.

In 1877, a line was surveyed from Paspébiac following the coast around Cape Maquereau and Percé Mountains to Gaspé Basin, making the distance by this route nearly 100 miles, and another survey was made between Paspébiac and Matapédia, generally following the same route as the first survey, but crossing the principal rivers further inland at more favorable points.

A survey was also made crossing the Restigouche River, to connect with the Intercolonial at Campbellton.

After inspecting the plans and profiles prepared from these surveys, I went over the whole distance, between Matapédia and Gaspé Basin, noting the general character and capabilities of the country, and made a personal examination of those portions offering the greatest obstacles to railway construction.

The country between Matapédia and Paspébiac affords a practicable route generally favorable, but there are portions near Matapédia, between the Rivers du Loup and Escuminac, crossing the Cascapédia and Bonaventure Rivers, and at Black Cape, that require works of considerable magnitude for a local railway, without assistance from a trunk line to which it would be an important feeder.

The gradients are generally undulating and quite favorable to the traffic, but a maximum gradient of 80 feet per mile is required at the Cascapédia River for a short distance. Taken together, there would be 27 miles of level, 16 miles of 0 to 20 feet, 17 miles of 20 to 40 feet, 24 miles of 40 to 60 feet and 16 miles of 60 to 80 feet per mile.

I estimate the cost from Matapédia to Paspébiac, with iron bridge superstructures over the principal rivers, and including buildings and rolling stock, at \$2,692,150, being \$26,921.50 per mile. (See Appendix.)

To connect with the Intercolonial at Matapédia, requires the building of ten miles more of line than to connect at Campbellton by a bridge over the Restigouche. The cost in either case will be very nearly the same.

By Campbellton, the distance to Halifax will be 23 miles less, and to Quebec three miles more than by Matapédia.

From Matapédia the surface of the country is composed of hills and side hills, the valleys along the streams only adding to their number, for 30 miles to the rich valley of Nouvelle River where they draw back, leaving one to two miles in width of excellent land, and become mountains 1,000 to 1,700 feet high, but carry up with them a surface of deep rich soil regardless of their height. At Maria they become lower, swing around to the north embracing among them the flourishing settlement of Irish-town, 10 miles from the coast, and after affording a passage to the Cascapédia River on their journey to the sea, with the hill from the Black Cape they run inland and gradually disappear, leaving a slightly undulating tract of country for 50 miles to Port Daniel, and extending many miles inland forming in the interior the broad valley of the great Bonaventure River, East of Port Daniel; for 15 miles to Pabos ranges of hills with villages along the streams run back from high rocky promontories at the coast into mountains.

From Pabos to Percé, a distance of twenty-five miles, the country resumes the same character, soil and formation as west of Port Daniel. Percé Mountains occupy the coast from Cape Cannon, three miles to Coin du Banc, extending back five miles, then following into a valley two miles in width, rises again in nameless ranges extending in a north-westerly direction, leaving a broad belt of rolling country along the coast to Gaspé Basin.

The surface of the whole country traversed, with few exceptions is covered with rich, deep soil, free from loose stones, based on sedimentary rocks which are only visible at the water's edge, at the Bay, and along the channel of the streams.

Shale and limestone formations prevail to Nouvelle River, around Black Cape, east of Port Daniel, to Pabos and on the north side of Percé Mountains.