

Railways. It was estimated by him that about \$1,600,000 would be necessary for the completion of the railway, with rolling stock, &c., making the total ultimate cost of the railway between Riviere du Loup and Truro \$2,250,000.

#### NORTH-WEST COMMUNICATION.

The Dominion route to the North-West, generally called the Dawson route, was leased during the season of navigation to Messrs. Ca pentar & Co. The route is as follows: From Toronto to Collingwood, 94 miles, by rail. From Collingwood to Prince Arthur Landing, through Lake Superior, 523 miles by steamer. From Prince Arthur's Landing to Lake Shebandowan, 45 miles of road. From Lake Shebandowan to North-West Angle, 303 miles by water; 8 1/2 portages; and from North-west Angle Lake of the Woods to Fort Garry, 95 miles by land. Total distance, 1,078 miles, being nearly 500 miles shorter than by rail through the United States, and 450 shorter than that by water. During the latter part of the season of 1874, passengers were sent from Prince Arthur to North-West Angle in six days. The Prince Arthur road was gravelled and improved; on the navigable sections steam power is now used. East of Rainy Lake small tugs, with boats and barges, are used; on Rainy Lake, a side-wheel steamer runs regularly; between Fort Frances and the Long Sault, a tug, with boats; and from Long Sault to the N. W. Angle another side-wheel steamer. Two-decked barges have been built for the Windegoos lakes and Lake Kogewickok. Boulders were removed during the winter from the Long Sault in Rainy River. The Lake of the Woods road was damaged by the Spring floods of 1874. Surveys were made of lakes and rivers contiguous to the route. The surveys made have gone far to establish the fact that a railway is practicable between Thunder Bay and Fort Garry in a generally direct course—50 miles shorter than any other that could be adopted, and passing through a wide region in which timber is abundant, the only large timber

region west of the Rocky Mountains. Settlement is beginning in the fine agricultural district on Rainy river, one of the finest in the whole North West, with forests of pine to the north and east, minerals of various kinds, and building stone in unlimited quantity. The expenditure on this road was \$185,545 for construction, and \$229,835 for maintenance.

#### PACIFIC RAILWAY SURVEY.

This survey may be said to extend from Ottawa to the Pacific Ocean. On the eastern or woodland section three routes have been found practicable, one to the north of Lake Nepigon, with a branch either to Prince Arthur or Red Rock, on Nepigon Bay, the second to the south of Lake Nepigon, with branch to Red Rock, and the third to the south of Lake Nepigon, touching Lake Superior at Prince Arthur.

Lake Nipissing is 780 feet above the sea level, while the mean height of Lake Superior is 9 1/8 feet, and Lake Winnipeg is 710 feet. Two summits between Lakes Nipissing and Superior have to be crossed which are 1,400 feet above the sea, and a third west of Lake Superior 1,580 feet. The chief difficulty in the Central or Prairie region is the crossing of rivers, these generally running through deep valleys. In the western or mountain region surveys are still being prosecuted. Great difficulty is found in finding a favorable course through the Cascades. Once the valley of the North Thompson is reached, a favorable line, without heavy works is found for the entire length across the mountains to the eastward.

The expenditure on this survey during the fiscal year was \$200,750.

#### TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was,

Construction .....	\$2,733,549.29
Repairs .....	676,872.84
Staff and Maintenance .	1,631,579.68

Total.....\$6,141,901.81

### Secretary of State's Department.

In the correspondence branch of this Department 3,884 letters were sent from the Department, and 1,800 received. In the Registrar's branch 2,066 documents were engrossed or recorded, and 705 pages of copies made. An Annual Return of all Bonds and Securities was prepared for Parliament, and a Quarterly Return of all the Indian and Ordnance Lands Sales sent to the Registrars of each county. In the Queen's Printer's Department the cost of the *Ontario Gazette* for the financial year was \$1,678, and the revenue derived from it \$1,198. About 1,030 copies are distributed gratis to official persons, &c., every month, and between 75 and 100 to subscribers and advertisers. Of the Statutes of 1874, 22,000 copies were printed—17,500 in English, and and 4,500 in French. Of these 90 copies were sold, the remainder distributed gratuitously. The cost of these was about 55 cents a volume, or \$12,113. A volume has

been published containing the Criminal Laws and Acts relating to criminal procedure, for the use of justices of the peace. The cost of Departmental printing for the different departments during the year was \$39,167—a small decrease on that of the preceding year. That of confidential printing, nearly all from the Finance Department, was \$600, against \$1,068 the preceding year; and that paid by warrant \$2,697, against \$2,286. The total work done under the superintendence of the office amounted to considerably more than \$70,000. In the Stationery Office branch the goods issued amounted to \$49,579—an increase of \$11,500 over the preceding year. The profit on the year's transactions was \$1,131. The average value of the stock on hand at the end of each month was \$14,019. The value of waste paper collected from the Departments and sold was \$607 for the year.