

pose of constructing a road from Hudson, to the city of Superior, and, by the action of the last Legislature, this charter was so amended, as to permit the Company to extend their road, when required, to the mouth of the St. Croix, in order to connect with a contemplated railroad from La Crosse and Prairie du Chien.

Most of the residents of Hudson, at that time, were men of very limited means, but a private subscription among them furnished the amount necessary to make the first surveys, and during the years 1854 and 1855, two surveys were made over the whole route. It was a work of unparalleled hardship, as the greater portion of the distance was an unknown wilderness, the only road through which is an Indian trail. But the indomitable energy of those, upon whom it devolved, carried them through successfully. A very favorable route was found and located, the length of which was one hundred and thirty-seven miles, only five miles greater than an air line. By this time, the connection of these two points by railroad, had begun to attract much attention abroad, and all who had investigated the subject, regarded it as an enterprise of national importance. Congress was, therefore, induced to include this route in the grant of lands made to the State of Wisconsin, in May, 1856, to aid in the construction of railroads, and also to provide, at the same time, for a branch to Bayfield, some ninety miles east of the head of Lake Superior.

This at once furnished ample means to finish and equip the road, without the actual outlay of a single dollar by the Company which builds it, so that its speedy completion is now placed beyond a doubt, and already much of the work has been contracted for, and about \$30,000, (exclusive of a large sum for surveys and incidental expenses,) actually expended on the route, during the past winter, in such labor as could profitably be done at that season of the year. The present summer will probably see the work carried on with increased energy, and a large portion of the grading completed.