

(F.)

SAINT JOHN, N. B., 11th August, 1868.

LEWIS CARVELL, Esq.,

GENERAL MANAGER.

SIR,—

I have the honor to submit the following Report for the year ending 30th June, 1868.

The Line has been carefully inspected and kept in thorough repair. It is now in good running order.

Thirteen and two-tenths miles of single Fencing have been rebuilt at the moderate cost of \$120.74 per mile. The Fence is the ordinary Virginia fence, which, except perhaps in the immediate vicinity of towns where appearance is of some importance, is for many reasons preferable to other pole fences. It is not disturbed by frost, is cheaply built, easily taken down in case of fire and as easily repaired.

14,830 Sleepers, or about six per cent of the whole number in the line, have been renewed. The new Sleepers are Pine and Hachmatac squared, instead of being merely flatted. The Joint Sleepers are 5 inches thick and 9 inches wide, and the others are 6 inches thick and not less than 8 or more than 10 inches wide. This ensures uniformity of bed in the ballast, a matter of importance where the Track is so much exposed to the action of frost. The specification and inspection were very strict, and the quality of the Sleepers is correspondingly good. 749 Rails, equal to 150 tons, and 3,557 Chairs, equal to about 45 tons, have been put into the Main Track.

The Expenses of Repairs to Bridges has been \$605.67, the principal part of which was expended on the Wooden Trestle Bridge over Salmon Creek.

The Iron Bridges at Trout Creek, Salmon River, Petitcodiac River, Milner's Creek, and Scadouc River, have been repainted at a cost of \$3,001.59. The Iron work was carefully scraped with sharp tools, so as to remove all rust or scale, and then painted with "Prince's Metallic Paint." The Work was thoroughly and faithfully executed.