

## CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, OTTAWA, 1st July, 1880.

You will learn from the documents appended, published by permission, that I am no longer in the Government service.

For the past seventeen years I have served under successive Administrations as Engineer-in-Chief of important public works: first, the Intercolonial Railway and, more recently, the Pacific Railway. I cannot cease to act as I have hitherto done without thinking of my past relationship with the many who have aided me, and I cannot retire from the position I have so long held without bidding farewell to those with whom I have been associated.

In undertakings so gigantic, involving questions so complicated, it is not possible to avoid differences of opinion and such difficulties as are incident thereto. But these difficulties have been exceptionally few, and they have been far more than compensated by the exceedingly agreeable relations which have generally prevailed; by the genuine satisfaction which has arisen from the performance of duty; and by the engrossing character of the work itself.

As the head of the Engineering Staff to whom the Government has looked for opinions and reports on all questions; as the officer held responsible for the direction of every operation and the organization of every detail from the first explorations to the present time, it is with peculiar regret that I break my connection with the Pacific Railway at this particular stage. I cannot conceal from the members of the Staff that I would have preferred to have remained with them to help forward the more complete fruition of our joint labors. But circumstances have exacted that it shall be otherwise, and the time has come when my professional connection with the great undertaking into which I have thrown my best energies must close.

On the other hand, I conceive that I may, with legitimate satisfaction, look back on the progress which has been made. The vast territory in which our investigations have been made is no longer a *terra incognita*. Our labors have successfully pierced the formidable barriers imposed by nature, and every problem of practicability has been solved. Construction is being proceeded with at different points, within a range of nearly 2,000 miles, and in a little more than another year the completion of at least 600 miles of the railway is assured. In that short period a line of communication will be open within Canadian territory for the influx of settlers to our great fertile wilderness, destined to be the home of millions.

In retiring from the office of Engineer-in-Chief of the Pacific Railway, I entertain the kindest feelings to each and to all. I shall always retain a warm recollection of friendships formed during my official career. I shall delight in hearing of the prosperity of my old associates, and I shall watch with deep, may I say with patriotic interest, the development of a national work which it has been my high privilege to assist in bringing to its present condition.

Again, with cordial good feeling and best wishes to all—Farewell!

SANDFORD FLEMING.

To the Members of the Engineering Staff and Other Officers.