

Letter from Alex. Beattie, Esq., Civil Engineer, of London, England.

[International Contract Company—Limited.]

ACADIAN IRON WORKS, }
4th October, 1866. }

MY DEAR SIR,—

My attention has several times been called to articles in the newspapers, regarding the construction of the Pictou line by you; most of these articles condemning the work as inferior in quality, and some insufficient in water-way.

You are aware that, with Mr. E. A. Jones, I went over a great portion of the works about six weeks ago, accompanied by Mr. Tremain, who pointed out and explained to us the principal structures; and as from this visit I came to a quite different conclusion from the opinions stated in the newspapers, I think I ought to state to you what I thought of the works, although no doubt Mr. Tremain has informed you what Mr. Jones and I thought of the works when on the ground.

My visit was with the sole purpose of ascertaining the cost of construction of railway works in this Province, of course taking into consideration the quality of the work executed. I went over the first two sections, and there I found the work executed in a most substantial manner. The rock cuttings were not nearly completed, but where finished, was, in my opinion, very satisfactory. The masonry was exceedingly good, much better than any I have seen on the existing lines of railway.

Sections three and four I did not see, but went over the line from about three miles north of New Lairg to New Glasgow. Through the entire length I found every structure I examined of most substantial masonry, very much better than I could possibly have anticipated, especially the large culvert at New Lairg, which is one of the finest pieces of masonry I have ever seen in such a structure. The large bridge at New Glasgow is also a most substantial structure. The street bridge in New Glasgow which I have seen mentioned in the newspapers as of inferior workmanship, I examined, but only in a casual manner, and I saw nothing which would lead me to believe that the structure was not of a substantial character.

I did not see the works between New Glasgow and Fisher's Grant.