

from 12 inches up to 20 inches. They have been most severely tested during the past winter, and they have stood the test far better than I ever expected. They are much more expensive than the fish-joints, but should they in the future prove as durable and efficient as I have reason to believe, they will, I am satisfied, be found in practice much more serviceable than any rail-joint yet in use. Taking everything into consideration I shall not be astonished to find that they will prove as much better than the fish-joint as the fish is superior to the common chair.

I should like to be favored with a report on your examination at as early a day as practicable.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING, C. E.

Report of Geo. Lowe Reid, Esq., Civil Engineer, on his Inspection of the Pictou Railway.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, }
24th May, 1867. }

SANDFORD FLEMING, Esq., C. E.,

Sir,—In terms of your letter of 6th inst., I have, since my arrival in this Province, made a careful examination of the whole of the works of the Truro and Pictou Railway, and having also perused the correspondence and the contract entered into between yourself and the Government, I now beg to report the results of my inspection.

The location of the line having been made, and the gradients established (by yourself as the former Chief Engineer of the Railway) before the date of your contract, it is unnecessary for me to make any remarks upon this subject. I may, however, be allowed to say, as the result of my observations of the ground, and examination of the profile of the country, as between Truro and Pictou, that I consider the alignment and gradients to have been established with very great care, and with a due regard to the permanent interests of the Government in the future working of the Railway.