

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT.

ROBERT JARDINE, ESQUIRE,

Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners.

SIR,—

I have the honor to submit the following Report upon the Works of the European and North American Railway, during the past year:—

At the date of my last Report, the whole of the line had been put under contract. The principal features and characteristics of the Road, both as regards location and construction, were described therein; and estimates of the probable cost of the different Divisions, Stations, and Rolling Stock, furnished. Tables also of the alignment and gradients had been carefully and minutely prepared. Those details will, in most cases, and the tables will altogether apply to this year; and I have deemed it unnecessary to enter into any further particulars, as it would be almost a recapitulation of what has been already done.

In my Report for 1858, at page 28, I stated that "the sums at which the unfinished Divisions had been taken by the several Contractors had been *assumed*, and, as usual in Railway estimates, fifteen per cent. on the whole then under construction had been added for contingencies." On referring to that Report, at pages 35 to 42, and pages 27 to 33 of the Supplementary Report, it will be observed that the first divisions of the work were let on an incomplete survey.

In consequence of this, and of the usual difficulty in ascertaining with precision the amount of work required to be done in constructing the Railway through a new country, and without surveys more accurate, than from various causes I had been enabled to make, it has been ascertained that the allowance for contingencies was too limited, and that the ultimate cost will probably exceed the estimate by about fifteen per cent. As the work is nearly finished, I have the means of knowing that this calculation is very nearly correct.

At all the lettings of these works, there was much competition; and the proposals were considerably under my estimate