

determination to secure the best material for the work, at any cost within the bounds of reason.

The roadway is wider also than on the line quoted—at least a great portion of it—both in the cuttings and embankments, giving in the first greater room for drainage, and on the last a permanent supply of ballast under the ends of the ties, a matter of almost equal importance.

The mode you have adopted for the under drainage of long cuttings is admirably effective, and will do more to insure a dry and easily maintained road-bed, and a uniform rail surface than any other I have seen tried. I must likewise pay tribute to your selection of iron culverts for steep side hills, the ease and impetus with which the water runs through them, rendering them less liable to choke up than stone ones, by the accumulation of ice, or otherwise, and in such a position in every way more effective and durable.

The sleepers distributed along the line are of good quality both as regards their dimensions and kind of material, and I feel confident you will find the style of fastening you have devised for the rail joints come up to your expectations. I cannot but regard it as being most permanent in itself, and one which by its sustaining power will do more to protect the ends of rails from the constantly recurring blows which now so soon wear them down, than any other in use. This is my belief, and I trust you will find it well founded.

I look, in fact, to the completion of your line as the giving to Nova Scotia the finest half hundred miles of Railway in British North America, and I question whether in the whole continent anything to excel it will be found, and this I give as my opinion in all truth and sincerity.

There is of course a good deal to be done still; but the foundation is laid, the chief point of difficulty, and with the rest of the work in the same hands that laid that, there is little to fear for the coping.

With best wishes for your ultimate success in all ways in the undertaking,

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Ever sincerely yours,

D. STARK.

SANDFORD FLEMING, Esq.