

Georgian Bay Branch, 50 miles.

A contract was entered into on the 2nd of August last for the grading, bridging, track-laying and ballasting required in constructing the line proposed to extend from a point on the western side of South River, near Nipissingan Post Office, to a point on French River about five miles east of Cantin's Bay, the distance being about fifty miles. The contractors have made some progress in erecting stores, and in forwarding supplies to points along the line, but construction so far has been confined to clearing portions of the line.

Engine House at Selkirk.

A contract has been entered into for the erection of a ten-stalled engine-house on the station grounds at Selkirk, but the building has not yet been commenced.

CONTRACTS.

A schedule of contracts upon which expenditure has been made during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1878, is appended.

Tenders for New Sections.

The sections between English River and Keewatin (185 miles) and between Yale and Lake Kamloops (125 miles) have for some time been advertised for construction. The necessary papers for the former section are now being issued to intending contractors, and it is proposed to receive tenders before the end of January. This link of 185 miles placed under contract, the whole distance from Fort William, Lake Superior, to Selkirk in Manitoba, 410 miles, will be under construction. The terms of the proposed contract will, it is believed, secure a vigorous prosecution of the work, and the completion at the earliest day practicable of this important link in the Pacific Railway. The reception of tenders for the work between Yale and Lake Kamloops, in British Columbia, has been postponed.

Tenders for the Whole Line.

During the past summer advertisements were widely published in England and this country, inviting proposals from capitalists and contractors for constructing and operating the whole line from the Province of Ontario to the Pacific Coast, the distance being about 2,000 miles. All information was furnished on application, and tenders were to have been sent in by the first of this month. No offers within the required conditions have, however, been received.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING,

Engineer-in-Chief.

F. BRAUN, Esq.,

Secretary Public Works,

Ottawa.

Since the above was in type, one proposal for the whole line was opened on 30th January, 1879 when the tenders for the Sections, between English River and Keewatin, were opened,

S. F.