

The constructive character of the road has already been amply tested and favourably established; and I have the fullest confidence that it will permanently approve itself as one fitted for economical working and maintenance.

The locomotive and rolling stock, at first supplied on a very liberal estimate of the necessities of local and way trade, has been gradually extended to meet its increasing demands, and a return of that now in operation on the road will be made by the Superintendent, to whose department it belongs.

It was to be anticipated that on the opening of the through route, its trade would necessitate additions to this stock, and it was prudent to regulate the amount of it rather by positive experience and demand than on estimate. Further augmentation would still appear to be necessary, but being due to a growing extension of trade, it may be made with satisfaction and safety.

The terminal depot service has been completed to a standard sufficient for the immediate necessities of the Company, although, doubtless, future additions will become requisite on the full development of the trade. At the Queen's Wharf, Depots and Engine House, Foundry, Blacksmith's and Car Repair Shops, have been added to the Machine Shop, and will, it is believed, afford ample facility for the repairing service of the road. The freight wharf has been completed, and with the freight house and sheds thereon (ample service by five lines of rail) gives shipping and storage accommodation of a very extensive and permanent character.

A permanent engine stable for eight engines has been erected, and the whole service at the Depot is now commensurate with the requirements.

The delays, however, in the execution of a portion of these works, inclusive of the Queen's wharf bridge and