

unusually so, owing to the great number of proprietors to be settled with, there being 304 in a distance of 30 miles. The farms are usually long and narrow, and the road crosses them in the most unfavourable manner.

Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary to construct numerous crossings, passage-ways, gates, &c., which rendered the final settlement of all claims not only difficult and tedious, but added materially to the expense of construction.

I have the pleasure to state, that, of the 304 claimants, 279 have been settled with, and conveyance made to the Company, and in nearly all of the remaining cases, the terms upon which the Company are to receive the land, have been agreed upon. Little, therefore, remains to be done to close up the whole business of right of way for 30 miles of road, except the making of the payments, and the execution of the deeds for the remaining cases.

Of this distance, 23⁷/₁₀ miles have been settled by negotiations with the proprietors, and the remainder by Arbitrators; the average cost of this distance, including notarial and all other expenses, has been £9 per arpent.

The total cost of all the land required for roadway, and stations for 30 miles of road, including all expenses, will be £9215 15s., which does not vary materially from the original estimated cost.

A large amount of ground has been purchased for the St. Lawrence terminus, which will afford ample accommodation for the most extended business.

The building of the fence and gates required for this 30 miles of road, have been contracted for on favorable terms.

The total disbursements made through this Department, up to the close of the fiscal year, was £30,529 2s. 8d.

Plans, specifications, &c., are completed for the wharf at the terminus, for depot buildings, and the various descriptions of cars required for the business of the road.

I would propose that the buildings should be of a cheap character; of sufficient dimensions to accommodate the anticipated business of the road for several years, reserving the means of the Company for the more important purpose of extending the road into the country.

As the road is extended, and its business increased, enlarged