

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

Letter from David Stark, Esq., Civil Engineer, lately in charge of the Grand Trunk Railway from Portland to Montreal, Quebec, and Rivière du Loup.

HALIFAX, 3rd October, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Having returned from the gratifying tour I made with you over the line of railway you are constructing between Truro and Fisher's Grant,—the Pictou terminus,—I desire to hand you the following statement of my appreciation of the work both as regards the progress that has been made with it and its quality.

With respect to progress, the nearness to actual completion to which the line has arrived throughout surprised me. I did not expect to find the heavy work I had heard of as existing in its centre, brought within the limits it has, or that I could have travelled over the great distance we did there on formation level. Indeed, with the exception of the heavy embankments at New Lairg, the arched culvert under which is entirely finished, and itself two-thirds so, and another further on towards New Glasgow similarly situated, there is little remaining to be done, save the laying down of the superstructure and the ballasting,—of material for the latter there seems to be a plentiful supply,—and this will, with anything like favorable weather, doubtless enable you to open the line by the time you contemplate.

As to the quality of the work done, I may state that I am intimately acquainted with the works on the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, having been engaged, from the commencement, on the construction of its Eastern Division, and having had it under my charge as Engineer for several years after its completion. Upon the whole of that extent of Railway there is nothing, to select a single item, and a most important one, to equal the magnificent masonry with which you have been able to endow the Nova Scotia line from Truro to Fisher's Grant. This is seen equally in its largest and smallest structures, an unusual circumstance in Railway construction, and which in this instance is due to your ability as well as