

conjecture as to the probable amount of receipts from goods and passengers' traffic between Halifax and the several termini proposed.

Indeed, what might constitute a reasonable estimate for such receipts for a first year's operations, judging from the results of railways and their introduction in other countries, would form a very imperfect criterion for a second or subsequent year, much less for an annual return. And, as lines from their location are unlikely to be subjected to rival influences, which is eminently the case with those under construction in Nova Scotia, just in the same proportion their productiveness may be relied upon as increasing and permanent. The experience of railway operations in other countries tends uniformly to establish this position.

Fifth—"A detailed statement of all the different amounts received by the board with their expenditure during the years 1854, 1855 and 1856."

The statement sought in the fifth requirement, has been furnished by the board quarterly, with the vouchers, to the financial secretary of the province, as by reference to that officer's department will appear. The several accounts for the years 1854 and 1855, it may be remarked, having been first audited by that officer, have been subsequently audited and reported upon by the joint committees of public accounts drawn from the two branches of the legislature. These documents are necessarily very voluminous, and would require a considerable period of time for transcribing.

—If, upon reference as above given, his excellency is still desirous that the board should furnish further copies, you will be pleased to signify his pleasure to that effect, and they shall be put in hand forthwith.

Sixth—"A detailed statement of the salaries, contingencies, office expenses, &c. of the board and staff of engineers, &c. during these years (1854, 1855 and 1856) including surveys, &c."

The returns required for salaries and for contingencies, has already been made to the financial secretary's office, the latter under the head of incidental expenses, to which the board desire respectfully to refer. Under the head of office expenses a detailed account has in like manner been rendered, and in each case quarterly, and with vouchers. The same observations apply to the return required for surveys under the head surveying.

Seventh—"A statement of the working expenses on the line opened, distinguishing wages, repairs, and other items of expenditure in the several years."

During the years 1855, the road was operated upon for but about six months. Interruptions from various causes occurred. Up to the first of January, 1856, the working expenses, although fully detailed and vouched, as by reference as above will appear, were not analyzed and systematized in the books of the board, as they have been during the year 1856.

For the year 1856, the working expenses have been detailed with much particularity, and the vouchers setting forth the nature of the disbursements have passed out of the possession of the board, under the control of the financial secretary, in accordance with the requirements of the acts of the legislature. But as these accounts are not very voluminous, the board have caused them to be again transcribed, and now annexed copies, see schedules A. B. C. & D.

Eighth—"A statement of the plant and other materials on hand."

Schedule E. contains a list of materials and plant.

Ninth.—"A succinct statement of the various contracts, with names, dates, amounts, sections, &c., whether performed and paid for in whole or in part."