APPENDIX No. 17.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Ottawa, 31st January, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honour to supplement the report made up to the 31st October last, on the various services of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Second 100-mile Section west of Red River.

Since the close of the year I have received and submitted to you the result of the surveys which have been made for the purpose of extending the railway west of the Province of Manitoba. An Order in Council has been passed (22nd January), adopting the line surveyed from the termination of the western end of the first 100-mile section now under contract (Contract 48), and running in a north-westerly direction to a point in the neighbourhood of Bird Tail Creek. This completes the adoption of the line of railway for a distance of two hundred miles west of Red River. The plans and other documents are being prepared, so that tenders may at once be received for the construction of this portion of the line.

Steps have been taken for the delivery of 100,000 ties, for the second 100-mile section, during the present winter, while the snow is on the ground and the rivers

frozen.

Lake Superior to Manitoba.

When I reported on the work at the close of last year, doubts were entertained, based on the progress made during the previous summer, as to the line being finished within the time named in the contract. Later examinations have shown, that the cause of complaint is now being removed. Mr. Schreiber, who has recently returned from a tour of inspection, reports that the work is now carried on with more system, that the contractors are displaying great energy in carrying forward large quantities of supplies for men and horses, that there is every prospect of the progress being satisfactory, and that the ground for anxiety which I felt, and which I considered it my duty to lay before you, is now being removed. There is now sufficient reason to anticipate, that the work on Section 42 will be completed within the contract time, and that the other sections will be completed before that date.

Purchase of Rails.

In my report I omitted to state that, of the 50,000 tons of steel rails secured last year, in England, 11,000 tons were purchased for the Intercolonial Railway, to be laid on the section between River du Loup and Quebec. This deduction leaves 39,000 tons available for the use of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

I have the honeur to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING.

Engineer-in-Chief.

F. Braun, Esq., Secretary, Railways and Canals, Ottawa.