

THOS. E. BLACKWELL, ESQ.

Vice-President and Managing Director,

G. T. R. Montreal.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith I beg to submit a report of our labours during the past year, with statements of the Locomotive and Car working and repairing. The repairs have been somewhat heavy, owing to the unusually severe and changeable weather of last winter, which seriously damaged our Stock. It is now, however, in first-class condition.

Our Freight business has greatly increased since the middle of September, and as there is now no doubt of its continued steady increase, we shall require at least 30 additional Engines of sufficient power to take heavy trains over the steep inclines on certain portions of the road. With these we should be able to avoid having recourse to the practice of running two Engines coupled together on Freight Trains—a practice objectionable, as involving not only increased wear and tear to the rolling stock, and consequently increased cost of repairs, but also considerable injury to the permanent way. The non-arrival of the Engines from England and Portland has disappointed us: as regards those expected from England, the delay is the more serious, in consequence of the time it will take to put them together after their arrival; and, unless they are speedily delivered, the shortness of time will prevent our using the greater part of them this winter.

We have turned out from these works since last year 5 sleeping cars, 4 baggage and post-office cars, two break vans, 101 box cars, and have 4 first-class cars about half finished.

I am glad in being able again to draw your attention to the regularity with which the trains have been run during the past year, as well as to the immunity from accident, which this Company continues to enjoy, affording the best of all proof of the excellent condition of the rolling stock and road.

The very satisfactory manner in which His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was taken along the Line without the slightest detention or a single mishap, must, I am sure, have been pleasing to the directors, and they may rely upon the continued exertion of myself and assistants to maintain the like results; and

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. S. MACKENZIE.

Pointe Sainte Charles,

Montreal,

21st November, 1860.