

the proposed line of route, from Inuvik to Repulse, has communicated itself to you! I am not aware that we have lost an hour more than was absolutely necessary - indeed the danger is that for the purpose of setting the work in motion we may proceed too fast.

This of the greatest importance that not only the Route but all the details should be fully and carefully considered to avoid all the errors which follow undue haste.

You are aware that we have been obliged to hear, (and it was our duty to do so) the arguments on both sides - for the Polley Lake Line and the St. line, - more especially as the Government of Nova Scotia have held the line while the Legislature seemed to support the other.

The case has been very fully & exhaustively submitted

to Council, and for the last fortnight we have been waiting for Fleming's arrival to come to a final and I hope satisfactory conclusion. The Contracts will be given out for 100 miles during the present Autumn, but the remainder will not be ready for Contract, as Fleming reports, until the Spring.

I have just learned that Blanchard has been defeated by 50. This may be fairly said to be a Union victory. The majority is so small that it can have no effect in strengthening the hands of the Outis - indeed such another victory must be given to them - as Pyrdus said.

The story has gone far and wide that even this small majority was secured by the unscrupulous use of the Secret Service money, and I am very