

Correspondence and Returns relating to the Provincial Railway Expenditure.

Provincial secretary's office.

Halifax, February 23rd, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,—

I am commanded by the lieutenant governor to request that you will furnish, for his excellency's information, the following returns connected with the great public works committed to your charge.

First—A detailed statement of the total cost of the portions of railway already completed, distinguishing the cost of road and permanent way, stations, land damages, plant, rolling stock, &c.

Second—An approximate estimate of the amount required to complete and equip the unfinished portions now under contract, in addition to what has already been expended.

Third—A similar estimate of the probable amount per mile, required to complete and equip the lines to Windsor, Truro, and Picton, from the termination of the existing contracts.

Fourth—An estimate of the probable annual receipts from goods and passengers' traffic between Halifax and the termini on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy.

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

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

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

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

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

I am to request that you will furnish these returns with the least possible delay, as they shall from time to time be prepared, in order to their being submitted to the legislature at an early day.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. H. KEATING,

Deputy secretary.

The commissioners for the construction of provincial railways,
&c. &c. &c.