

made of crib work or piles. The wharf itself consists of a combination of crib work and piling, and it is a very substantial structure. The great depth of water and mud has precluded you from building a wharf of a more decidedly permanent nature; but the present one can, in the course of years, be gradually converted into a solid structure, by filling in with stones or ballast. A freight shed for the through merchandize is erected on this wharf, covering an area of about a thousand square yards, and having the railway track extended through the centre of it.

Your contract requires you to furnish a "suitable steam ferry boat and the construction of proper landing wharves," at Pictou and at Fisher's Grant. I understand that you are having an iron boat built for this service in England, and I perceive from an inspection of the plans that you have not spared expense in providing a strong, powerful ferry boat, with every accommodation for a large passenger traffic.

At a point half way between the terminal wharf and the shore you are erecting a freight and passenger house for the local business. This building is 60 x 30 feet in size, and is built upon piles on the outer side of the trackway.

An engine house and turn-table under the same roof, with carpenter's and blacksmith's shops in combination with it, is being built of stone, in a very superior manner, on the solid ground near the junction of the wharf track with the main line. This engine house will possess stalls for six locomotives, and the tanks for the water supply are to be fed from a spring by gravitation. The turn-table is of exceedingly good quality both in point of material and workmanship. The timber frame-work is of sound, well-seasoned, pitch pine.

Having now passed my opinion upon the character of the works of the Pictou Railway, under their respective heads, I shall merely add a single line to say, that taken as a whole, I can with the fullest confidence express my deliberate judgment that the Railway has been constructed by you under a conscientious determination to act up to the spirit and meaning of your official reports and plans, and in terms of your contract with the Government interpreted in the widest and most liberal sense.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. LOWE REID.

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