

Tendering—
Contract No. 15.

A. P. MACDONALD, sworn and examined :

By the Chairman :—

14259. Where do you live?—I live now in Toronto.

14260. What is your occupation?—My occupation has been a contractor. In business as contractor for forty years.

14261. For what period have you been so occupied?—About forty years.

14262. Have you had any connection with any of the transactions of the Canadian Pacific Railway, either as tenderer or contractor?—I have tendered for pretty much all the work that has been advertised, that tenders have been received for, except one piece I believe.

14263. Do you remember which was the first work in which either your tender was accepted, or you thought it ought to have been accepted?—On section 15. Tendered for section 15.

14264. Were you offered the work on this contract in accordance with your tender?—Well, the work in May, 1876, they received tenders on. I was entitled, I think, to the work at that time; but they did not come to my tender. The Commissioner or Minister thought best to advertise again. That was in May, 1876, I think. In October, 1876, the work was advertised for again, and section 15 was declared to Robert Kane, of Montreal, and myself—sections 15 and 14. October, 1876, section 15, given to Robert Kane and witness.

14265. Do you mean that the contract was awarded to you for those two sections?—Yes, for those two sections. The advertisement stated for the tying, track-laying, and ballasting of section 14, and section 15 as well, and the completion of grading of section 15.

14266. Was that the second time tenders were asked for, or the third time?—That was the third time. The third time tenders had been asked for.

14267. Then upon the last occasion of tenders being invited, the contract was awarded to you and Mr. Kane?—Yes.

14268. And you did not take the contract, did you?—Well, we were anxious to take the contract, and anxious to go into contract for it; but there was obstacles thrown in the way, because the time was extended to the contractors for 14—for the completion of section 14. In our calculations— We made calculations that section 14 could be made available to complete, at least, two-thirds of section 15—to bring men, labour, and supplies, &c., into the work—and in our letter to the Minister we asked that a date should be put to the completion of contract 14 before we would sign the contract for 15, and that he refused to do. Reasons why he did not take contract. Minister refused to fix a date for completing contract 14 before the signing of contract 15.

14269. Had that condition been mentioned in the advertisement for tenders, or in the particulars given to tenderers?—Yes; the advertisement for tenders led us all to believe that section 14 would be completed according to the contract that was made with the contractors at first, but the time between the letting and going into contract was extended.

14270. Will you look at this advertisement (Exhibit No. 45) dated August 1st, 1876, and say if that is the advertisement on which you made the tender on the last occasion?—Yes, that is the one; that is the very identical one, Sir.