

**Railway
Spikes—
Contract No. 35.
Cooper, Fair-
man & Co.**

The spikes could have been furnished cheaper at Duluth if the duty were subtracted.

14001. Then, but for the necessity or expediency of collecting duty, these articles could have been furnished at this lower price?—They could have been furnished so far as Duluth was concerned, but a portion of the spikes were required at Fort William. Then to the price of delivery at Duluth, it would have been necessary to add the cost of transportation from Duluth to Fort William at the expense of the Government.

14002. Do you know whether the price at Fort William, if delivered by either of those tenderers would have been necessarily higher than at Duluth: do you know whether they were to be transported by rail or by boat, because if by boat through the lakes it is not likely that they would cost more at Fort William?—I do not.

14003. Do you know whether there was any correspondence with either of those American tenderers to ascertain whether the delivery at Fort William would cost more or less than at Duluth?—There was no correspondence.

Practice in considering value of tenders to reckon duty.

14004. Do you know whether it has been the practice in all cases in considering the relative advantage of tenders to add the duty?—Yes.

14005. So that this matter was decided according to the usual practice upon such subjects?—Yes.

14006. Has this contract been completed?—Yes.

14007. Has there been any dispute upon the subject?—No.

14008. What is the next contract, in point of time, which we have not investigated?—The next contract is No. 37, but I am not prepared on it. No. 38 is with Edmund Ingalls.

**Neebing Hotel:
Offices for
engineers—
Contract No. 38.**

14009. Have you the contract?—Yes; I shall produce a copy later. It is for the conversion of the Neebing Hotel, at Fort William, into offices for the engineering staff.

14010. Was the work let by public competition?—Yes.

Let to lowest tender.

14011. To the lowest tenderer?—Yes.

Completed.

14012. Has it been completed?—Yes.

14013. Has there been any dispute between the Government and the contractor?—No.

14014. Is there any other matter connected with it which you think requires explanation?—No.

Total amount involved \$3,400.

14015. About what is the total amount involved in contract No. 38?—About \$3,400.

**Transportation
of Rails—
Contract No. 39.**

14016. What was the next contract?—No. 39, for the transportation of rails from Esquimalt and Nanaimo to Yale, British Columbia.

14017. Have you the contract or a copy of it?—I have not got it with me.

Let by public competition.

14018. Was the work let by public competition?—Yes.

14019. Have you a copy of the advertisement or any report upon the tenders?—Yes; I produce a copy of the correspondence. (Exhibit No. 158.)

14020. Can you say how it was decided to do this work: I mean was it by Order-in-Council, or by the Minister, or upon a report by the