

Georgian Bay**Branch—****Contract No. 37.**

had no objections to add to the firm, if it gave a greater strength, and it was upon that representation that I went in.

13894. Do you mean that Mr. Ripley went in?—It was on that representation that I went in. I joined him; he was already in.

Negotiated only with Ripley.

13895. Did you negotiate with Heney and Charlebois or only with Ripley, as to your going in?—Only with Ripley.

13896. Did you understand that he was negotiating on account of the whole firm, or only for his own interest?—He was negotiating, I think, on account of the whole firm, although I think there was a certain reservation made that Charlebois reserved a certain interest which Ripley was to give him if he went out, which we have since paid since the work stopped.

13897. Are you still connected with Ripley?—I am.

13898. Is any one else now interested with you and Ripley?—No.

Witness and Ripley represent the whole firm now.

13899. You claim to represent the whole firm as it originally stood, and with the addition of Ripley?—Yes; we have an assignment of their entire interest which we got since the stoppage of the work.

13900. The contract was not carried on to its fulfilment?—No.

Reasons for stopping work.

13901. Why not?—We were informed by the engineer that the policy of the Government had changed, that they did not intend to build the branch, but intended to build the road north of Lake Nipissing.

13902. Was that by writing that intimation?—No; I do not think that was in writing, but we had a notice. Our notice to suspend was in writing. I do not think there was any cause given—any reason given—why they suspended.

13903. Have you any claims against the Government on account of this stoppage of the work?—Yes, I have.

Claim against Government: nature of.

13904. What is the nature of the claim?—The claim is for work performed, for tramways, building docks, building and clearing the entire line through wooded country, and also for all the moneys that we have expended and a reasonable profit for the suspension of the work.

13905. You mean a reasonable profit on the balance of the work, if it had been completed?—Yes, if it had been completed.

13906. When you say for work done, do you mean work done under the contract or work done when preparing for the fulfilment of the contract?—A portion of it had been done under the contract—I think, from memory, \$30,000 or \$35,000—perhaps more than that had been done under the contract, may be \$40,000. The balance was for plant which we put there, which was lost largely; and for loss of tools, loss of flour and food—and a large amount of flour and bacon, and supplies for our men that had been carried into the country and dragged up French River, that had to be brought back; which really netted us very little—and I should have said horses and cattle that we had to bring back. We had bought them, and had to bring them back, and sold them at a nominal sum.

Furnished Government with general but not a detailed statement of claim.

13907. Have you furnished the Government with a detailed statement of the particulars of this claim?—I am not sure that we have. I do not think we have. We did with a general statement, I think, but not a detailed statement.