

**Railway Construction—
Contract No. 14.**

that the contract be awarded to the next lowest tender. Do you know why there is no such recommendation in this case?—I have no doubt the Minister consulted the Chief Engineer before he awarded contract 14 to Sifton & Ward; but I do not know why he did not report on the subject.

1068. If tenders were accepted in their regular order, and because lower tenderers were not willing or were not able to fulfil the terms, was it usual to consult the engineer as to the propriety of going to the next lowest tender? In other words, was that a matter for the engineering branch of your Department or for the managing head?—The engineer was consulted.

Usual practice to consult Fleming.

1069. That was the usual practice, do you mean?—Yes.

1070. Have you any record of his being consulted in this case, about contract 14?—No record; but that does not mean that he was not consulted.

No record that he was consulted about contract 14.

1071. Has this contract been fulfilled by the contractor, as far as you know?—Not completely by this contractor.

Contract not fulfilled by contractor.

1072. Was the work taken out of the contractor's hands by the Government, or was it by some friendly arrangement?—Before answering that question I wish to consult the documents of the office.

1073. Have you a report showing the relative position of the persons tendering, made by Mr. Fleming on this contract?—Yes; I produce it. (Exhibit No. 44.)

Fleming's report as to tenders.

1074. Are you prepared to give the amounts expended on these different contracts, or would you prefer us to get that information from some other officer in the Department?—I think you can get it better from the accountant than from me.

Contract No. 15.

1075. What is the number of the next contract on construction between Lake Superior and Red River?—Contract 15.

1076. Was this work submitted to public competition?—Yes.

1077. Who were the contractors?—Sutton, Thompson & Whitehead.

Contractors, Sutton, Thompson & Whitehead.

1078. What is the date of the contract?—January 9th, 1877.

Date of contract, 9th Jan., 1877.

1079. Was this contract based upon the first advertisement for tenders, or were there several advertisements for tenders?—It was not based on the first advertisement for tenders. There were several advertisements.

Several advertisements.

1080. Have you the first advertisement for work on this section?—Yes; it is the same as the one produced on contract 14.

1081. That led to no contract?—No.

1082. Do you know whether the second advertisement led to any contract?—It did not.

1083. This contract was let upon the third advertisement, was it?—Yes.

Contract let upon third advertisement.

1084. Have you the third advertisement?—Yes; I produce it. (Exhibit No. 45.)