

13978. In the description of this contract in Mr. Fleming's special report of 1879 appears an item of transportation from Fort William : is that included in the advertisement for tenders or in the contract ?—It is neither in the advertisement nor in the contract.

Transportation of Rails—Contract No. 34.

Transportation from Fort William improperly placed in Fleming's description of this contract; Report 1879.

13979. Then it is improperly described, as forming a portion of this contract, in Mr. Fleming's report ?—Yes.

13980. Was that work performed from Fort William ?—Yes.

13981. By whom ?—By the same company who performed contract 34—the North-West Transportation Co.

13982. Was that work let by public competition ?—No.

Transportation from Fort William let without public competition.

13983. How was the arrangement arrived at ?—I shall search for the papers and produce them on some other occasion.

13984. Do you know whether there was any written agreement on the subject ?—There were some letters.

13985. Has contract 34 for the transportation from Kingston been fulfilled ?—Yes.

13986. Has there been any dispute on the subject ?—No.

13987. What is the next contract ?—Contract No. 35, with Cooper, Fairman & Co., for the supply of railway spikes delivered on the wharves at Fort William and Duluth.

Railway Spikes—Contract No. 35. Cooper, Fairman & Co.

13988. Have you the advertisement and any report upon the tenders ?—Yes; I produce it. (Exhibit No. 156.)

13989. Have you the contract ?—Yes; I produce it. (Exhibit No. 157.)

13990. Does the question of duty enter into consideration at all in deciding upon these tenders ?—Yes.

13991. In what way ?—Parties from the United States when they send in goods pay the duty.

13992. The tender which was accepted was the lowest was it not ?—Yes.

Tender accepted the lowest.

13993. Everything considered ?—Yes.

13994. Was there any duty upon these articles coming from England at that time ?—Spikes coming from England. Yes.

13995. Did these articles come from England under this contract ?—No.

13996. Where were they made ?—At Montreal.

The spikes made at Montreal.

13997. Then they paid no duty of course ?—No.

13998. Could you have obtained the same articles at a lower price from other persons tendering if no duty had been collected ?—Yes.

13999. How much less would those articles have cost if furnished by any other tenderers without paying duty—by the lowest of the other tenderers ?—There was one tender from Dreworth, Porter & Co., for spikes delivered at Duluth within the United States at the rate of \$48.16; and one from Dana & Co., also delivered at Duluth, at the rate of \$48.86 per ton.

14000. And what was the contract price to Cooper, Fairman & Co. ?—\$49.75 delivered at Duluth and Fort William, within Canada—that was in bond in Canada.