

The Chief Engineer replied that he would not agree that the cost of the work should be increased and refused to approve of the change, except on the condition that no additional cost should be involved.

Upon this the contractors agreed to do the work as proposed by them without extra cost, and it was executed and paid for accordingly.

It is shown, and it has never been questioned, that the change gave the Commissioners and the City of Quebec a better sewer. (Evidence of Murphy pages 223, 224 ; Evidence of Boswell, pages 1080, 1081.)

As regards the alleged change in respect to security for the performance of the contract, it would appear to have reference to the substitution of an uncertified cheque of O. E. Murphy for \$25,000, endorsed by N. K. Connoll for a certificate of deposit from the Union Bank for the same amount (See evidence of Verret, page 480). There is a difference between Mr. Thomas McGreevy and Mr. Verret about this transaction, the former claiming that he intended the letter on which the latter gave up the certificate to show, as the one produced does show, that he objected to the substitution, the latter contending that the letter now produced is not the one on which he acted, and which he most positively states contained the word "No," so that instead of reading "I see objection, &c.," it read "I see no objection, &c."

This dispute, however, has nothing to do with the Department of Public Works. Murphy, Verret and Thomas McGreevy were the only parties to the transaction.

Here it may be once more pointed out that this South Wall contract was awarded by the Commissioners themselves under the authority of the Statute and that the only relation of the Public Works Department to this work was that it was the duty of the Minister of that Department to recommend the necessary advances as the work progressed (See abstract of Statutes above, Statement of Sir Hector Langevin, page 1063).

Bearing this distinction in mind, it will be seen that none of the charges under this head affect the Department of Public Works.