

has never received a cent, together with the cruel manner in which I have been sent from post to pillar between the Company and the Government for the last year, and a desire to set myself right, as far as I can, with any one whose good opinion of me as a working contractor has been affected, are, I think, sufficient justification for putting the following correspondence together in such a way that it may be read conveniently, and in the order in which it occurred. Some surprise has been expressed that I should have taken a contract from this company, and more surprise that I could be held so long doing the work. To this I would say—the personnel of the company as constituted, when I took the contract was, I thought, highly respectable. Messrs. James Cooper, J. P. Dawes, Alexander Ewing and James Williamson, of Montreal, with others, were in it, and were described by the press of the day as a syndicate of Capitalists, determined to finish this road and develop the resources of the country, and they did not contradict this description of themselves or their intentions. I had no reason to suppose such men would allow their names to be used unless they had a real interest in the enterprise, had ascertained its position, and understood the responsibility they assumed. But I went further than the personnel of the company, and as much of their official dealing with the Government of the day as it was necessary for them to show me appeared perfectly straight; they were clearly entitled to subsidies for the work I was undertaking, the only condition being that the work should be satisfactorily performed, and I intended doing that to the letter, and if my part of the