

Practice of Department.

691. I mean for that particular contract?—I should think that he would still be eligible for that particular contract at his original price. He would not be eligible for his modified price.

692. Then the practice is, that if a person, after tendering, makes a material modification in his price or terms, he is no longer eligible for that contract?—We do not entertain his proposed change.

A proposed change in tender not entertained.

693. You do not allow him to modify his tender?—No.

694. Then a modified tender could not be accepted as a basis for a contract?—No.

A modified tender could not be accepted as a basis of a contract.

695. And does that apply whether the modified offer be still the lowest offer or not?—It does.

Even though it were the lowest.

696. So that although it be the lowest offer he is still ineligible for that contract?—His modified price is not accepted.

697. Whether it be lower or not than the next tender?—Yes.

Contract No. 2—Telegraph.

698. For what portion of the line is the contract made with Mr. Fuller?—From Livingston to Edmonton.

699. Was that either of the sections named in the advertisement for tenders?—It was not.

700. Did Fuller tender for that portion of the line by itself?—No.

701. Was that portion of the line, by itself, ever offered to public competition?—No.

Contract No. 1—Telegraph.

702. Have you ascertained whether an Order-in-Council was made in reference to the contract of Sifton, Glass & Co.?—I have ascertained that no Order in Council was passed.

No Order in Council in reference to contract to Sifton, Glass & Co.

703. In the advertisement for tenders of these telegraph contracts I do not notice that any directions are given to endorse the tenders as tenders. Is that usual or not in asking for tenders?—That is the general practice of the Department.

Usual in advertisement to direct that tender shall be endorsed.

704. It was not followed in this case?—Apparently not.

Practice disregarded in this case.

705. What is the object of asking generally that tenders should be so endorsed?—So that they may be collected together and not opened.

Object of endorsing tenders.

706. Then if a tender should reach your office not endorsed as a tender, would it be opened before the day fixed for opening the tenders?—It would be unless it were brought in by some person who stated to the Secretary that it was a tender.

In absence of some notice, a tender would be opened before the day fixed for opening tender.

707. Unless the Department had some notification that the letter was a tender, it would be treated as an ordinary letter and opened on its arrival?—Yes.

708. Look at the tender of Sifton, Glass & Co.; is there anything on the envelope or tender to indicate that it ought not to be opened at once?—They are marked "Tender for Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph line."

Sifton, Glass & Co.'s tender was endorsed.

709. Then you think it was not opened until all the other tenders were opened?—I do think that it was not opened.

710. It would be on the 7th of August that it was opened?—Yes.

Was opened on 7th August.