

48. Have you a copy of that Order in Council?—I have not a copy with me.

Appointments subordinate to Chief Engineer made jointly; Minister reserving appointments but always consulting Chief Engineer.

49. Were the appointments of engineers and other persons subordinate to him made by the Department on its responsibility or by the Engineer himself on his responsibility?—They were made jointly. The Minister reserved to himself the appointment of engineers, but he never did so without consulting the Chief Engineer as to the capabilities of the individual—as to his competency.

50. How were you aware that he always consulted with the Chief Engineer?—Because in many cases I was present.

51. In all cases were you present?—Not in all cases.

52. As to those cases in which you were not present, how are you aware that he consulted the Chief Engineer?—I am aware because I know that it was the practice and the intention of the Minister to do so.

53. Because you understood it to be the intention you suppose that the intention was carried out?—Yes.

No memorandum of consultations as to eligibility of subordinates.

54. As to those consultations upon the eligibility of subordinates, was there usually a memorandum of the consultations and decisions?—No; I do not think there was any memorandum kept. I think it was more in this way: the Chief Engineer waited on the Minister with a list of persons who had applied for employment, and the Chief Engineer, after looking through them and reading the recommendations made, or probably from his own knowledge of the individuals, would recommend certain individuals to the Minister.

55. Do you know whether there were exceptions to that course when suggestions came from the Minister to the Engineer as to persons to be employed?—I have stated the general rule followed.

56. Do you remember any exceptions?—I do not at this moment.

Separate accounts had been kept for money spent on explorations as distinguished from contracts.

57. I understood you to say that separate accounts had been kept for the money spent on explorations as distinguished from contracts and other labor?—Yes.

58. As to information about the manner of conducting the explorations and surveys, ought we to enquire of persons in the Department or in the outside service?—You should ask the Engineers.

59. There are some in the Department, are there not?—Yes.

60. You would not be able to give us much information, I suppose, about explorations and surveys?—I am not qualified for that.

Contract No. 1.—Telegraph.

61. Is the subject of contracts more within the knowledge of the Department?—Yes.

First contract was for the construction of a telegraph.

62. Upon what subject was your first contract?—The first contract was for the construction of a telegraph.

Made on the 17th Oct., 1874.

63. At what date was the contract made?—On the 17th October, 1874.

64. Have you the contract here?—I have.

Contractors: John W. Sifton, David Glass, Michael Fleming.

65. Give me the names of the contracting parties?—The contract was between John W. Sifton, of the City of London; David Glass, of the same place, and Michael Fleming, of the Town of Sarnia, under the name of Sifton, Glass & Company.