

**Railway Construction—
Contract No. 25.**

1160. I notice a letter attached to the tender which says that Purcell is willing to raise the bonus to \$500. Does that affect the value of the tender in any way?—No.

1161. It did not alter the terms of the contract?—It did not.

1162. Have you the contract No. 15?—Yes.

1163. Can you produce it?—This is an original; I will produce a copy of it.

1164. Have you the correspondence showing what led up to the introduction of another person into the contract besides Purcell?—I have here a letter dated 30th of May from Mr. Purcell to the Minister of Public Works, asking that Hugh Ryan be associated with him. I now produce it. (Exhibit No. 56.)

Letter from Purcell asking that H. Ryan should be associated with him.

1165. I notice in this tender of Ryan's that many of the figures have been altered, both schedule of rates and the amounts as moneyed out. Have you any means of knowing that it was in that shape when it was opened beyond the certificate signed by Mr. Fleming?—No; I have no means.

1166. Has this contract been fulfilled by the contractors?—The work has been executed.

Work has been executed.

1167. Are the contractors finally settled with?—No.

Contractors not finally settled with.

1168. Is there a dispute existing between the contractors and the Department?—There is a dispute.

1169. Did the executed works exceed the estimated works on this contract?—Yes.

Executed work exceeded estimated very considerably.

1170. Largely, or only in a trifling degree?—Very considerably.

1171. Do you remember upon what item the principal excess was?—Excavation.

Excess principally on excavation.

1172. Of what material?—I do not wish to speak from memory. The Commission would obtain this information from the engineers more direct.

1173. And more correctly?—Yes; more correctly than I can give it, speaking from memory.

1174. Was there a re-measurement of the executed quantities upon this contract—I see that the Chief Engineer recommends it in the interests of the public?—Yes.

Re-measurement of executed quantities.

1175. What was the general result of the re-measurement? Was it to verify the previous measurements, or to show that they were too low or too high?—The re-measurement did not agree with the first measurement, and at this moment they have been referred to the engineer who made the first measurement for report.

Re-measurement showed results less than the first measurement.

1176. Do you mean that they were less than his measurements?—They were less than the first measurements.

1177. Who made the re-measurement?—Mr. L. G. Bell, Engineer.

1178. Who made the former measurements?—They were made by a staff of engineers under Mr. McLennan.

1179. Who gave the certificates upon those previous measurements; were they by the staff or by a single engineer?—I cannot remember.