

**Transportation
of Rails, B.C.—
Contract No. 39.**
June 12th, 1878.

14207. At what date is that direction?—On the 12th June, 1878.

14208. Do you know the authority to Mr. Braun for this step?—I find no record of that.

14209. Do you know whether it had been settled by the Department at that time that the rails would be required at or near Yale?—It was then pretty well understood in the Department that the Burrard Inlet would be recommended favourably to Council.

Order-in-Council
13th July, 1878.

14210. Was an Order-in-Council on that subject passed then or near that time?—A report to Council was made on the 11th July and an Order was passed on the 13th July, 1878, which I produce. (Exhibit No. 177.)

14211. Have you a copy of the advertisement for this work, or any report upon the tenders?—A copy of the advertisement will be found at page 6 of Return 43 F, to an Order of the House of Commons, dated 20th February, 1879.

14212. The same Return contains a report by Mr. Robson upon the result of these tenders: do you know of any other report besides that which appears here?—There are no other reports from Mr. Robson besides this contained in the printed documents.

Letter from
Robson June 19th,
1878, suggesting
that the time for
delivery of rails
should be extend-
ed as likely to
result in lower
offers.

14213. In this Return appears a letter from Mr. Robson dated 19th of June, 1878, suggesting that if the time for the delivery of rails should be extended beyond the 1st of November, which was the day advertised, it would probably result in lower offers for transportation, because the existing facilities were limited, and he named the latter part of the following summer as the end of the time during which the transportation might take place: do you know whether that matter was considered by the Department and any decision arrived at?—I find no record of it.

14214. Do you remember whether there was any understanding between the officers of the Department that it was necessary to have the rails at the point indicated as early as November, the time advertised, or was it an open question?—I do not remember.

14215. Was the contract fulfilled?—No.

Work stopped on
the 31st October.

14216. I see that the work was stopped at the time named in the contract, the day before the 1st of November: do you remember whether it was because the time was up, or because it became apparent that the rails were not all wanted at Yale so early?—The words of the Secretary in his instructions to Mr. Robson to stop are these: "Notify John Irving to stop moving rails, and other railway materia's, from Vancouver Island, Longley, or other points, after the 31st instant, when the contract expires."

Rails not requir-
ed at Yale so
early.

14217. I noticed these words, but I did not think they conveyed the information which I have asked for?—About this time it was not thought that the rails would be required at Yale so early.

14218. Is there any claim made against the Government by the contractor in consequence of this stoppage of the works?—Yes.

Contract restored
to contractor:
Irving.

14219. Has the claim been settled?—The claim has been settled by the restoring of the contract to Mr. Irving.

14220. And no amount has been directly paid by the Government which would involve a loss by the stoppage?—No.