

Railway Construction—Contract No. 13.

Cross-sections taken in the fall and winter of 1876, from which approximate quantities obtainable.

Did not get a complete working profile until months after work was commenced.

Government engineers refused to give information.

432. Then was it possible to form any approximate estimate of the quantities at the time the work was commenced?—I think that approximate cross-sections were taken in the fall and winter of 1876 from which an approximate idea of the quantities could be arrived at.

433. Was that after the work had been commenced?—Before.

434. Were you furnished with any of the particulars given by those plans?—We had never been furnished with a complete working plan. We did not get a complete working profile until several months after the work was commenced, and it was commenced before we got any cross-sections.

435. Did you ask for these particulars from the engineer in charge?—I did.

436. What was his answer?—He was away from the contract when I arrived there, and I first asked the assistants for the working plan and profile of the section.

437. Who were the assistants?—Mr. Fellowes, Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. McNabb. Mr. Fellowes told me that he could not give me any information until Mr. Carre returned, and Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. McNabb told me that they had no plan or profile of the work made; that as soon as they made one they would be glad to give me a copy.

438. When you saw Mr. Carre did you ask him?—I did.

439. With what result?—He said that his assistants were quite right in refusing to give me any information, and that he did not intend to give me any of the information that I had asked for about the work. I specified all the information that I required, and wrote to Mr. Carre asking for it.

440. Was this answer to you in writing or verbal?—His answer was verbal.

441. How were you first made aware of the character of the work that you were required to do? How was it pointed out to you what the contractor had to do?—There was a line cleared for the telegraph construction, and over a portion of that the location stakes were in, showing the centre line of the railway.

4 2. Then the information given to the contractor was by something on the ground?—Yes.

443. Not in the shape of plans or writings or papers?—No.

444. Were levels given indicating the grade?—The grade pegs were put in for us at the commencement of cuttings on the ground.

445. Then you had the line grade?—Yes.

446. Shown on the ground?—Yes.

Allignments and grades changed

447. Was that line adhered to throughout the contract?—The alignments and grades have both been changed in several places.

Instructed to make a rock base for the earth embankments in water stretches.

448. Were you led to understand how the water stretches were to be crossed?—We were first instructed to fill up the water stretches with the rock taken from the cuttings and make a rock basis in the water sufficiently wide to carry an earth embankment.

449. Filled up solidly?—Yes.