

COMMITTEE ROOM,
MONDAY, 18th May, 1874.

Sub-Committee met.

Messrs. Light, Fitzgerald, Gough, Garden, Buck, Hazlewood and Fleming were in attendance.

Mr. Buck further examined—

By Mr. Mills :—

1298. Through whom did you receive your appointment?—It came from the Commissioners.

1299. Did you recommend the lowering of the grades?—Not directly. I think I stated it was a matter about which I did not wish to dictate.

1300. Do you remember the number of culverts you recommended to have struck out?—Thirty-four.

1301. What reason do you assign for throwing out so many?—I did so on account of diversions.

1302. Did the water of the streams still cross the road?—No; it was carried down on either side.

1303. You mean to say these thirty-four outlets or culverts you diverted away from the road altogether?—Yes.

1304. So that the water does not now cross the road-way?—No.

1305. Did you diminish the size, or recommend a diminution of the size, of the remaining water-ways?—I cannot say I did.

1306. Don't you remember?—I do not remember any particular instance.

1307. What was the effect of all those reductions. Was it to the advantage or disadvantage of the contractor?—It was, of course, to the advantage of the contractor.

1308. Was the cost of making the diversions less or greater than the cost of making the culverts?—It was less; but still greater than the cost of the ordinary grading of the road.

1309. Was it very much less?—I cannot answer that question, as I was only there for a short period, and whatever was done afterwards I am not responsible for.

1310. Did you make those reductions or changes Mr. Light was called on to confirm within the same year?—I do not think it was in the same year. It was within a twelve-month afterwards.

1311. Do you know by whose orders?—I think by the orders of the Chief Engineer.

1312. Did Mr. Light coincide with the changes that you determined on recommending?—Not altogether.

1313. In what respect did his views differ from those you had expressed in your report?—I think I stated before that the first-class masonry was somewhat reduced, and the second-class masonry increased.

1314. By your report?—Subsequent to my report.

1315. Had you any special instructions from Chief Engineer in reference to reduction and changes of water-ways?—I do not know of any.

1316. Did you examine the water shed before you undertook to make those changes as to the quantity of water that was likely to pass through them?—I did.

1317. Do you know Mr. Nicholson?—I do.

1318. What were his duties?—He acted as roadman.

1319. Who made the freshet notes?—I cannot say who made them on Section 16.

1320. Whose duty is it generally to make those notes?—The Assistant Engineer.

1321. Do you know anything about the culvert at Portage River?—I am acquainted with it.

1322. I have a statement in my hand that a quantity of masonry was reduced from 302 cubic yards, first-class, to 70 cubic yards of second-class dry masonry?—This was not in my time, I think.

1323. Supposing that it is discovered that the width of stream was 7 or 9 feet, and the depth 3 feet, which would make a measurement of $23\frac{1}{4}$, would a water-way of 4×5