

bridges to prove that the government has been paying more than six cents per pound for them. In the public accounts committee last session accounts were examined of the superstructure of Saunders Brook and Dingee bridges. The following are copies:

Saunders Brook bridge—Record Foundry Company's account, 3,556 pounds at 6 1-2 cents, \$233.09.

Dingee Bridge—Record Foundry Company's account, 12,586 pounds, at 6 1-2c., \$816.09.

As the province was charged in the public accounts with \$448.41 for the Saunders bridge and \$1,186.17 for the Dingee bridge, Mr. Pinder and Mr. Dibblee asked what had become of the balance above what was paid the Record Company, Mr. Emmerson stated that the balance represented freight from Moncton and the cost of erection, flooring, painting, etc.

The committee could get no accounts for the other bridges, but simply the Record Company's receipts. They asked for particulars and were told that there were no details, but that the bridges were all the same price, namely, 6 1-2 cents per pound. The 6 1-2 cent price for the bridges delivered on cars at Moncton is thus established by the engineer's report and the testimony of the chief commissioner. These two bridges will be discussed later. Mr. Emmerson's statement is given here as official evidence of the 6 1-2 cent price. Mr. Holmes mentions a letter from the Dominion Bridge Company, of Montreal, in reply to an enquiry for their prices. The manager of the Dominion Bridge Company writes as follows:

THREE CENTS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

Dear Sir:—

We have duly received your favor of the 11th inst., and in reply thereto would say that we shall be pleased to furnish you with manufactured metal work for highway bridges at prices varying from 2.65 cts per pound to 3c per pound, f. o. b. cars at our works. These prices are for the metal

work fully manufactured and fitted ready for erection at sites, and cover painting one coat before shipment. The exact price we can quote you for any particular structure will depend on the design of the span, and on its length and capacity and resulting weight, the shorter and lighter span being the more expensive, the longer and heavier spans the cheaper; but our price is not in any case likely to be below or over the figures named above. If you will send us full particulars of any work that may be offering, we will make a careful estimate of the same, and will name you a definite price for the metal work.

Freight rates from our works to the various I. C. Ry points are as follows: Campbellton, 21c.; Newcastle, 25c.; Moncton, 27c.; Amherst, 27c.; Truro, Halifax, and New Glasgow, 28c.; Antigonish 30c.; and Sydney, C. B., 32c.

The various items of erection expense will vary a great deal with the locations. Carriage from railway station to site may be taken at 25c. per ton per mile. Lumber for flooring is obtained locally at prevailing prices. The cost of labor for the erection, including setting the false work, assembling and riveting the metal work, laying the flooring and painting the metal work after assembling, may be figured roughly at 70c. per 100 lbs. for the shorter and lighter spans, and 50c. per 100 lbs. for the longer and heavier spans, or say from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per lineal foot of bridge.

NOVA SCOTIA TENDERS.

Re Nova Scotia work. We have tendered to the Nova Scotia government since the first of the year on seventeen different bridges, and on referring to our records find that we have estimated this work at prices varying from \$2.62 to \$2.84 per 100 lbs. of metal work, on cars at our shops. The tenders were lump sum prices for the completed bridges, and were reached by adding to the above prices for metal work, the cost of freight to the nearest railway station, and a lump sum which had in each case been named us by the erector who does our lower province work, as the price at which he would contract to take the metal work from the cars, transport it to the site, and do all the work connected with the erection of the bridge. His price also covered furnishing and laying the wooden flooring.

Re the value of bridge work for the