

**Tendering—
Contract No. 61,
B.C.**

Aware of no im-
proper influence
to assist his firm.

13946. Are you aware of any promise given, or any money paid, or any advantage bestowed upon any person connected with the Department to assist your firm, or any of them, in obtaining this contract?—No; I am not.

13947. Are you aware of any Member of Parliament, Minister of the Crown, or otherwise, getting any advantage or any promise upon this subject?—No.

13948. Do you remember about the amount of the gross price upon the estimated work of that contract?—You mean the total?

13949. Yes?—I forget now. I could not state; but it seems to me that it is—I will not attempt to state it because I should make a mistake, and it would be useless for me to do it.

Total amount of
contract \$3,017,180

13950. I may mention, for your information, that the Blue Book gives it at \$3,017,180 : do you know whether that will refresh your memory at all on the subject?—Yes; that is about it as I recollect. I should like to state here, in justification for the selling of this, at the time that we put in the bid we expected to get the other sections; that was our intention—to get them altogether. When we found we had but one section we found that it would be disadvantageous to us to do that one section and other parties doing other sections, as there would be conflict in labour between the different contractors on these three different divisions, or four, and the same arrangements would have to be made for carrying out supplies and carrying out men for one section that would have to be made for all of the sections. While it would not pay three or four men, it would pay one man to carry on this work, and have the entire thing very much better.

Expected to get
all the sections.

13951. You make use of the word justification : the Commissioners do not intend to suggest that it requires any defence, or that it is wrong to sell a contract fairly obtained?—I would like to have it struck out, and to say by way of explanation—

13952. This wish is recorded, and that will probably answer the same purpose : is there any other matter connected with this contract in British Columbia that you think proper to give by way of evidence?—There is nothing further of interest that I know of.

13953. Were you interested in any of the other contracts in British Columbia, which were obtained in the names of other persons?—No; I was not.

13954. You mentioned the principal reason for parting with this interest, that you had been disappointed in not getting more of the contracts : have you ever considered the effect of having several of those contracts, as to the general cost—I mean having two, or three, or more—would it decrease your expenditure by any particular percentage for instance?—It would very largely.

Onderdonk by
having the whole
work could save
enough in work-
ing expenses to
enable him to pay
what he did each
of the contractors

13955. Then, as a consequence of that, would the effect be, that if Mr. Onderdonk got several of them he could afford to pay any individual contractor as much as he did pay, and still save that much upon the whole?—He could, as far as I know.

13956. I mean reasoning upon the premises which you have described?—Yes.

13957. According to that idea, it would be better always for the Government to let longer portions of the line than shorter ones : is that