

made up, or at least those that the Engineer may order to be done, and not those that he, the contractor, may select.

Truly yours,

(Signed) JAMES H. ROWAN.

H. CARRE, Esq.,
Division Engineer, Contract 14.

I came down to Ottawa about the first of January, but as I had not heard of anything being done in the matter I submitted a letter again to Mr. Smith, of which this is a copy:—

OTTAWA, 5th March, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Early last November Mr. Whitehead had a conversation with me, in reference to being permitted to make up the embankments on Contract 15 with earth or sand in lieu of trestle-work. I requested him to put his proposition in writing, in order that I might submit it to the Department through you; about the same time I wrote to Mr. Carre (5th November, 1877) requesting detailed information on the subject, which I could submit at the same time; my letter to him was as follows: "Detailed information on the subject, made up under the following heads, giving the quantities and cost as near as possible.

"1st. The cost of completing the line according to the present design.

"2nd. The cost of same, substituting earth or sand filling instead of trestle-work.

"3rd. Cost of completing line as at present contemplated, and subsequent filling in of trestle portion with earth or sand.

"Note.—All items, such as masonry, bridging and stream tunnels, &c., &c., which would be common to all three plans, may be disregarded in the calculations, or, better still, given in a bulk sum common to all three."

"The estimate under the first head should show the quantity and cost of rock in line cuttings, and such clay or sand as is contained in the same; together with sand and clay which can be easily obtained by borrowing, and the quantity and cost of the trestle-work required to fill up the ungraded portion remaining after the above is done. The line, as regards grading, being considered completed under the present contract when this done."

"The estimate under the second head will show the cost, with the trestle-work, done away and earth or sand substituted."

"If trestle-work must be retained at some points, you will bear in mind that it will prove most economic in high banks at points other than water stretches."

"The estimate under the third head explains itself. I have not yet the necessary data, in the shape of longitudinal and cross-sections, &c., furnished me by you, to enable me to have these estimates made in my office. As it is very important that I should have this information at the earliest practicable date, you will, therefore, prepare and forward it to me."

"There must be a clear understanding with the contractors, as to the fact, that if consent is given for earth filling, in lieu of trestle-work, all the banks must be so made up, or at least those that the engineer may order to be done, and not those that he, the contractor, may select."

On the seventh November last, I received the enclosed letter from Mr. Whitehead, making a formal proposition in connection with this subject.

Before leaving Winnipeg, to come down here, I again wrote to Mr. Carre (17th December), informing him that I had received this letter and added: "Before, however, I can submit this to the Department I must be in a position to lay before it an approximate estimate of the cost of both ways of doing the work." Hence my letter to you of the 3rd November.

"Mr. Marcus Smith having approved of the plan for making the banks across water-stretches, with rock sides to be filled in with earth and sand, these are now