

**Railway Con-
struction—
Contract No. 15.**

1126. Without reference to other sections for the present, are you aware whether this excess on section 15 was brought to the notice of the Department and discussed very soon after it occurred?—My impression is that it was verbally.

1127. Have you ascertained whether any deposits were made with the tenders in the case of section 15?—I have ascertained that deposits have been made, and we are now preparing the list.

Deposits were made with tenders for sec. 15.

1128. Has it been the practice with the Department to forfeit deposits made with tenders when the parties who made the tenders withdrew or omitted to fulfill the conditions?—The practice is not constant.

Practice as to forfeiting deposits not constant.

1129. What is the usual practice, or is there any understanding about a usual practice?—The practice is to retain the cheques, but some of the cheques have been returned under special circumstances.

Practice to retain cheques, but some have been returned under special circumstances.

1130. Not under ordinary circumstances?—No.

1131. Are you aware whether any of the securities, in the shape of cheques or money, on undertakings connected with any of the offers about work on the Pacific Railway have been retained by the Government in consequence of failure in the performance of the offer?—I cannot answer without referring to the Department.

1132. You spoke yesterday of the Order substituting Mr. Whitehead for the firm of Sutton, Thompson & Whitehead for section 15 contract; have you got that Order?—I produce a copy of it. (Exhibit No. 52.)

Order-in-Council substituting Whitehead for the firm of Sutton, Thompson & Whitehead.

1133. Have you the contract, or a copy of the contract No. 33 to produce?—It is not ready yet.

1134. Have you contract 13, or a copy of it?—It is not yet ready.

1135. You spoke of some correspondence concerning disputes on contract No. 33; have you that ready?—We are not quite ready yet.

1136. Contract 15 covered the ballasting and track-laying over the grading work that had been done on section 14?—Yes.

1137. What is the number of the next contract, on account of construction, between Lake Superior and Red River?—Contract No. 25.

Contract No. 25.
Grading, &c., between Sunshine Creek and English River.

1138. What is the subject of that contract?—Grading and bridging, and other works, between Sunshine Creek and English River.

1139. About how many miles?—About eighty miles.

Extent, 80 miles.

1140. Did it not also cover some work over part of what is known as contract No. 13?—It also covered track-laying and ballasting from Fort William to English River—that is 112 miles altogether.

Also covered track-laying and ballasting from Fort William to English River.

1141. Was this work let by public competition?—Yes.

1142. Have you the advertisement asking for tenders?—Yes; I produce it. (Exhibit No. 53.)

1143. Were specifications and bills of work furnished to persons tendering?—Yes.

Specifications and bill of works furnished to tenderers.

1144. Have you copies of these to produce now?—No.