

identical with the other contract.

Q. Identical with the other one that you read?—A. Yes.

Q. That is the one for \$4,000?—A. Yes.

Q. You returned from Midland on what date your report is dated the 23rd November?—A. My report is dated the 23rd of November.

Q. And you made your report to Col. Anderson, your chief?—A. To Col. Anderson.

Q. Saying what you have already told us, that it was not unreasonable, although it might possibly be reduced?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you think it could be reduced?—A. I cannot say just now, you cannot put an exact price on work of that kind, it is not like building a house or anything like that.

Q. Do you mean to tell me that you, a public officer, being sent to ascertain what you think would be a fair sum to pay for a certain work did not make any data, any memoranda after the investigation, and turn it in to the department, is that your practice?—A. It apparently was in this case.

Q. That was your practice in that case. You went up to Midland, you saw the Harbour Master did you?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you discuss with him what would be a fair price? You did not?—A. Oh yes, undoubtedly.

Q. How much did he tell you would be fair?—A. I have no note of that.

Q. What else did you do besides talking to the Harbour Master?—A. As I say I got an offer from the person who he told me was the best person to get an offer from.

Q. What other enquiries did you make yourself?—A. I could not tell you off-hand now, but I got an estimate and submitted it to the department.

Q. You got an estimate from somebody who was willing to do the work for that price?—A. Yes.

Q. And as far as you personally were concerned you made no estimate in your own mind as to a reasonable sum to pay for it?—A. I certainly did.

Q. What was your figure?—A. It must have been in the neighbourhood of \$4,000, my report shows that.

Q. That is suspicious, ^{it} is not?—A. I think not.

Q. That your report should be \$4,000 and their offer should be \$4,000?—A. No, I do not think so.

Q. Did you not take their figure without any further investigation at all?—A. No, certainly not.

Q. But you cannot tell me what further investigation you made?—A. I could not at this moment, if you had asked me at the time I could have done so.

Q. You made no memorandum at that time?—A. No, I did not.

Q. You had, when recommending the acceptance of the offer for \$4,000, you had in mind this fact that it had been done two seasons before for \$500?—A. I did not consider it had been done at all before.

Q. You cannot say in view of that letter from Mr. Grant that it had not been kept open?—A. I do not consider that the work under this contract was anything like the work charged for in this bill.

Q. How do you reconcile your report that \$4,000 is reasonable with Col. Anderson's report that the work was not necessary at all?—A. He had three years previous information as to what had been done at the place, I had nothing of the kind.

Q. So you made an estimate?—A. It was an estimate and besides that an experiment.

Q. Did you consult with the deputy minister before you made this report?—A. I never saw him about it at all.

Q. Did you consult with anybody else?—A. In the department.

Q. Yes?—A. I did exactly what Col. Anderson told me.

Q. Did you tell him that you had investigated and you thought that \$4,000 was not unreasonable?—A. I made my report to him and signed my name to it.