

Railway Construction—Contract No. 15.

527. What do you mean by borrowing earth?—Procuring it elsewhere than in excavations necessary for purposes of the railway proper.

528. Is it off the line of railway always?—It may be off the line of railway or off the prism of the cuttings through which the railway runs.

529. In either of those cases, would it be called borrowing?—Yes; if it is outside of the prism of the cuttings it would be called borrowing; anything inside of that would be called line cuttings.

530. Is earth sometimes borrowed from places at the sides of the work where there is no cutting; I mean, by making pits?—Yes.

531. So that borrowing may be where there is no cutting at all?—Yes; where there is no cutting otherwise necessary for purposes of the railway.

Several borrow pits made on Sec. 15.

532. Did it happen on this section that earth was borrowed where there was no cutting?—Yes; we made several borrow pits.

Country rocky, with deposits of sand.

533. What is the general character of the soil along the line as located?—The country generally is very rocky with deposits of sand in places.

What soil there is principally sand.

534. Then the soil, whatever soil there may be, is principally sand?—Yes.

535. Is sand good material for filling?—It is considered very good material for embankments.

536. Better than ordinary earth?—There are different kinds of sand, some kinds of sand may be better than ordinary earth for embankments and others not so good as ordinary earth.

537. Is the sand that you find in that country good?—It is generally of good quality.

538. As good as ordinary earth?—I think so.

Saw that all material for embankments could be borrowed.

539. When you first went up there did you ascertain whether there was much material which could be borrowed, or not?—We saw, upon our first inspection of the line, that we could borrow all the material necessary for making the embankments.

No trestle work necessary.

540. Without trestle?—Yes.

541. And has the result shown that opinion to be correct?—It has.

542. Then, from the beginning, was it your opinion that there was no necessity to introduce trestle work, because earth embankments could be made from the immediate locality?—Yes.

Country at west end of Sec. 15, and east end of Sec. 14, of the same character.

543. Do you know anything about the western end of section 15 being higher than the grade as arranged for the eastern end of section 14?—The character of the country on the western end of section 15 and the eastern end of section 14 is the same.

544. What I mean is this—it is intimated in some of the papers which have been before Parliamentary Committees, that there was a great deal of filling required to raise the eastern end of section 14 so that it might coincide with the western end of section 15. Do you know anything about that matter?—I do not understand it. The grade at the junction of the contracts is the maximum grade allowed on the work. It would not be possible to get any lower on contract 14 with that grade.