

Honorable H.
H. Killaly.
17th May, 1862

but not to the extent to which the Contractors considered themselves entitled. The examination of their claims therefore formed a very important part of my duty, and in my settlement of them, in some cases I confirmed the prices as rated by the officers of the Department, and in others added to them, when sufficient reason in my opinion was adduced for my doing so.

20. Now that a suspension has taken place, and that no materials have been drawn out and prepared during the winter, can the works be proceeded with this summer without considerable extra cost?—No, but those costs would fall on the Contractors, on account of the settlement I effected with them.

21. Then you consider the settlement you have effected as binding both upon the Contractors and the Government?—I do consider it so.

22. Would not the cost of those buildings have been considerably lessened had they been erected at or near a large city, where hand labor and materials would have been more easily procured?—They would undoubtedly, in my opinion, as prices range very much higher there than in Quebec or Montreal. A large proportion of the laborers and mechanics were brought from a distance, and they complained bitterly of the price of food and lodging. The cost of materials also is much higher there, with the exception of lime stone and lumber. The buildings are faced with sand stone, and the item of lumber is not important, inasmuch as very little of it is used in the additional work which constitutes two thirds of the entire.

23. You seem to have acted more as an arbitrator between the Government and the Contractors than as a reporting engineer. Did you consider that your instructions gave you that power, or did you receive any particular instructions to that effect?—I considered my instructions fully authorized me to make a settlement with the Contractors. I felt so persuaded of this that I did not raise a question or require any particular explanation as to them. If I had had any doubt on this point I would not have gone to Ottawa.

24. Hon. Mr. *Moore*—Did you make the estimate signed by you?—The estimates signed by me were made from the official measurements of the several classes of work furnished to me by the measurers, rated at the prices settled as explained in my answer to question No. 10, put to me by the Honorable Mr. Ross, and in my report of 16th April. [To Hon. Mr. *Seymour*.]

25. Did you examine the work before doing so?—Very carefully

26. How many days were you in Ottawa?—I devoted about three weeks to the examination in Ottawa, exclusive of a considerable portion of six months, elsewhere, given to the consideration of the numerous documents submitted to me.

27. What steps did you take to ascertain the value of the work