

**Railway Construction—  
Contract No. 15.**

Not possible for Dept., without advice of engineers, to know whether work was going to be more expensive than was estimated.

No record of estimated quantities kept.

1119. Was it possible for the Department, then, during the progress of the work as executed, to know whether the work was going to be more expensive than the tenders intimated?—It was not possible without recourse to the engineers.

1120. Do you keep any book or record of the estimated quantities, so that it can be ascertained, when progress estimates are put in, whether these exceed the estimated quantities of the tenders?—We do not.

OTTAWA, Friday, 20th August, 1880.

TOUSSAINT TRUDEAU's examination continued:

*By the Chairman :—*

1121. According to your system, may the executed quantities largely exceed the estimated quantities without the Department being aware of it? Is it possible?—No, it is not; for the engineers are in constant daily communication with the Department and keep it informed.

In the present case, thinks the Engineer informed the Department that the executed work exceeded the estimates. Whether it would be proper to stop contract when quantities reached, debated. Also, whether it would not be expedient to change grades from 52-26 to 80-40 feet to the mile.

1122. Are you able to say now whether, in reference to section 15, they did keep the Department informed of the fact, as soon as it occurred that the executed works were costing more than the estimated works?—I have no doubt that they did; and what recalls it to my mind is this fact: I know it was discussed in the Department whether it would not be proper to stop contract 15 when the quantities in the contract were reached. This thing was very seriously discussed. Another proposition discussed was, whether it would not be expedient to change the grades. It was thought that the grades might be changed from 52-26 to 80-40 feet to the mile. This was very seriously discussed and very favourably entertained by Mr. Mackenzie at the time. Another thing which brings it to my mind is this: that on one occasion, before the Committee on Public Accounts, a question was raised as to the increased cost of these works, and I recollect that I stated there, before the Committee, that I advocated the change of grading, and that it had been discussed in the Department and the Minister was favourably disposed.

1123. Favourably disposed to what?—To the change. That is what brings it to my mind, that on both sides of the Committee there was a strong expression that the grades of the road should not be disturbed.

That the cost and quantities exceeded the estimates, known to Dept. shortly after it occurred.

1124. I do not understand how the strong expression on both sides of the Committee would affect this particular question, but perhaps it does. In the meantime, do I understand you to say that the knowledge that the cost and quantities of the works executed exceeded the cost and quantities estimated on section 15, was known to the Department, and discussed there soon after it occurred?—Yes; I say that it was, and I have quoted those things simply to show what brings it to my mind.

1125. You have no doubt now that you are right, and that it was about section 15?—These discussions apply to all the sections, but section 15 was very much the subject of debate.