

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, 26th May, 1891.

The Committee met, Mr. KIRKPATRICK in the Chair.

Mr. JAMES WOODS sworn:

By the Chairman:

Q. What is your name?—A. James Woods, Acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners.

By Mr. Geoffrion:

Q. Since how long are you in the employ of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners?
—A. Since 1876.

Q. You are now the Acting Secretary?—A. Yes; Acting Secretary-Treasurer.

Q. There is no Secretary-Treasurer?—A. No; there is no Secretary-Treasurer.

Q. Who was Secretary-Treasurer before the vacancy?—A. A. H. Verret.

Q. When did he cease to be Secretary-Treasurer?—A. In February, 1890.

Q. Since then you have been in that office and you are the custodian of the papers of the Commission?—A. Yes, Sir.

Q. In compliance with the subpoena that was served upon you, did you bring all the papers that you found in the Harbour Commissioners' office in connection with the contracts mentioned in the order?—A. All that I could see.

Q. Can you tell whether amongst those papers there are the tenders which were called for the Graving Dock at Lévis some time in 1878?—A. Only a portion of them.

Q. Plans and specifications would also be there?—A. The plans of the Graving Dock, I believe the Public Works Department has them. I arranged with the Engineer to forward all plans of the Louise Docks and Graving Dock, but I believe the Graving Dock plans have already been sent to the Department of Public Works.

Q. Have you also in connection with those papers the notices calling for tenders?—A. No, Sir; they are in a scrap-book in the office. I could send for them.

Q. No doubt they would be annexed to the contracts?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember also whether there was a supplementary contract in connection with those works—the Lévis Dock?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you brought with you the correspondence and other papers in connection with that supplementary contract?—A. I think so.

Q. Can you now file them?—A. It would take me a little while to go through them.

Q. They are not classified?—A. No. They are placed in bundles yearly. The work had to be done in a very great hurry in obedience to the order of the Committee, and there was no time to make a synopsis. If the time is given to me I can deposit them.

Q. You could at least put your hand at once upon the supplementary contract that was passed in 1884, if I am not mistaken?—A. Yes, Sir; I think so.

Q. Where are those papers—in the other room?—A. In the other room; yes.

Q. You had better go and get them?—A. This is the original contract for 1878, and the supplementary contract bound in one volume.

Q. The correspondence is not in that volume?—A. No, Sir.

Q. It would require a different search for you to find the correspondence?—A. Yes, Sir. I may say it would take some time to collect that correspondence