

"5. I have heard that statements have been made to the effect that the poles were only put down in the snow and frost and as soon as spring came they fell down, and I have no hesitation in saying that such statements are base falsehoods and could only be made for the purpose of injuring Mr. Sifton.

"6. I completed the line about thirty miles west from Lake Manitoba, and from what I saw of other parts of the line I am satisfied that the work was as well done as was possible with the poles that could be obtained in the respective localities.

"And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled An Act for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths."

"HENRY W. WYNNE.

"Declared before me in the County of Provencher, this 11th day of November, 1870.

"MARK WHITLEY,

*"Justice of the Peace."*

#### STATEMENT OF MR. BELL.

"LEE'S FERRY, ARIZONA, U.S.A.,

"26th July, 1881.

"DEAR SIR,—As I believe that evidence which I can give to the Commission upon the subject of contract No. 25 is very important; and as the absence of Mr. Miall has prevented his brother Commissioners from taking my evidence in regular form; and as I have had to leave Ottawa suddenly for work here in the Western States, where I shall probably remain for a long time, I feel it my duty to take the only means at my disposal for putting my evidence on record, and, therefore, I beg leave to submit to the Commission the following statement:—

"In the summer of 1879, with the assistance of Mr. A. J. Hill, now in charge of part of the works on the Canadian Pacific Railway in British Columbia, I made, under the directions of Mr. Sandford Fleming, a re-measurement of the earthwork, rockwork and ballasting executed under contract No. 25, of the Canadian Pacific Railway. My instructions were contained in a letter from Mr. Fleming, dated about 20th May, 1879.

"My measurements were almost all made in excavation, and not in embankment, as has been intimated in other evidence. The contents of line cuttings were ascertained by means of cross-sections of the finished work, the form of the original surface being transferred from the cross-sections taken of it before the contract work was commenced. The same means of measurement were used in such borrow-pits as could not be measured closely by ordinary tape measurements. The quantity of excavation in ditches was ascertained by a tape for the width, a levelling rod for the depth, and by chaining along the line for the length, where the the engineers' working stakes were not regularly and satisfactorily found. In taking the depths of the ditches, the tape was stretched across the ditch along the original firm surface, the rod was then driven down with considerable force into the soft mud and water to the firm bottom, and the depth was read off the rod where the tape crossed it. Particular care was always taken to ascertain the full depth, and in cases where, from the presence of much water, or from any other cause, there could be an uncertainty about the exact depths being ascertained, two or more soundings were made.