

following language is used, in connection with the same subject :

" The specifications given out by the late Railway Company, were *fifty per cent lighter* than the standard now adopted, *which is as light as is safe.*" And again : " I could not therefore have approved of work of which I had never seen the designs." And again : " I never saw the plans and specifications till December 1876." And again : " I merely gave the bridge builder, at his own request, a certificate that he had fulfilled his contract with the contractor; it does not at all follow that I considered the work up to standard; which it was not, being some 50 per cent too light."

Before the Government Engineer made his report of Nov. 25, 1874, and the examination of the work which preceded it, I had shown him all the plans, specifications and bills of materials for the wooden bridges between Quebec and Three-Rivers; and he had fully approved them. These plans were signed by me, and placed in the hands of the Contractor.

Assuming these plans to be the same as those referred to in the Government Engineer's late pamphlet, it is somewhat difficult to reconcile the statements contained in that pamphlet, with the truth; or to appreciate the force of his remark in connection therewith, to wit : " the old specification is modified by the clause in the new contract, which binds the ' Contractor to make all changes in plans in conformity with Government requirements, from time to time.' " Having, however, recently exposed the fallacy of the Government Engineer's theory as to the proper construction of this clause in the Government contract, I will not enlarge upon that subject here.