

THE FACTS SUMMED UP.

The facts set forth in the foregoing pages in relation to steel bridges are briefly summed up below. The cost of the Petiscodiac bridge superstructure is found by deducting from the cost of the whole bridge the amount of the second lowest tender for the substructure. By taking the lowest tender the case would have been made stronger, but as the second lowest represents the price which was actually paid for that part of the work it has been taken.

The cost of the Port Elgin superstructure is found by deducting from the total cost of the bridge the amount of the lowest tender for the substructure, and in allowing a further sum of \$500, which is three times too much, for extras. The market price of the smaller bridges is made four cents per pound and those of the Petiscodiac and Port Elgin 3½ cents, while the Lefebvre, Blackville and Campbell bridges, built later, are computed at 3½ cents. All those prices are higher than the real market price at the time.

	Cost the Province.	Market Price.	Loss to the Province.
Lefebvre bridge	\$15,350	\$7,120	\$8,230
Blackville bridge	10,459	5,193	5,266
Campbells' bridge	10,400	4,559	5,841
Petiscodiac bridge	5,172	1,500	3,672
Port Elgin bridge	5,500	1,000	4,500
Saunders' Brook bridge	448	144	304
Dingee bridge	1,186	503	683
Grand Manan bridge	1,233	373	860
Mill Cove bridge	1,280	365	915
Total,	\$51,028	\$20,757	\$30,271

The Government has withheld the accounts of other bridges, but computing on the basis of the cases that are known the following over-payments have been made:

	Loss to the Province.
Bathurst bridge	\$7,300
Tabor's bridge	2,400
Cuisack's bridge	2,500
Hutcheson bridge	1,500
Bull Creek bridge	1,500
Total,	\$15,200

Scores of smaller bridges have been let to favorites at excessive prices with bills of extras added.

Changes in specifications after the contracts have been let have given substructure contractors tens of thousands of dollars.

The table given on page 14 shows that on 13 small contracts amounting altogether to \$15,528, the extras allowed brought the total price up to \$20,645. What chance is there for an honest contractor against such a system as this?