

dered for, as requested by the commissioner, which would be brought down. He believed it was more advantageous to employ men by the day to finish the work than it would have been to let it out by tender again. Such was his experience.

The CHAIRMAN—I would like you to say whether your conduct of the construction of that building since the time you have been superintending it has been as economical as if you had the contract yourself.

A.—Yes, I am certain it has been quite as much if not more so.

Q—You swear that?

A—I swear that. As a matter of fact I am paying only \$1 25 per day to men upon work for which I pay at the rate of \$2 per day in my own shop. I understood at one time that the difference in the cost of construction, if any, would have to be made up by Mr. Elliot, and I kept down the amount as much as I possibly could in consequence.

Mr. HARDY—In your purchase of stock and materials, have you used your best endeavours to get everything at the best marketable price?

A.—Yes; I have always bought where I could get the cheapest and the best.

Mr. LAUDER—We do not make any charge against Mr. Wagner.

Mr. HARDY—No; it is against the Government you try to make the charge.

Mr. CAMERON—Yes, and we would bring a charge against the Government in the matter, upon principle, even if it were shown that they saved money upon it. (Hear, hear.)

After a few returns were ordered, and Messrs. Hellam, Melville, and Sheard called as witnesses for Monday, the Committee adjourned at 1:10 p. m.