

thousand. It made very little difference in the price whether the posts were nine-foot or ten-foot lumber. There was a little more work upon the fence round the Parliament Buildings than upon that round Dr. Jennings' church, and the pickets in the one case might cost a little more than in the other. The difference in the price of inch and inch-and-quarter pickets would, in his opinion, be about one-fourth; inch-and-quarter stuff would cost about \$14 per thousand. Politically witness was a Conservative. The McDonald's were good business men, and did their work well. They had, to some extent, retired from the building business, and never took jobs at tender scarcely. They tendered for the job upon which witness was at present engaged. They offered to do it for about \$9,000 he thought; he was doing the same thing for about \$6,000. They were Reformers politically, he believed, although he did not know much about their politics.

By Mr. LAUDER—Witness could not put a price upon the whole of the work, including the painting. He did not want to go out of the line of his own business. He thought parties might have been got to take the old fence away for the sake of the material. He was not sure, if the fence were his own, whether he could have got any one to take it away without extra cost, or not; but he thought he probably might.

By Mr. FRASER—As a contractor, he generally paid 20 cents a yard for three-coat painting. He never made any measurement of the fence round the Parliament buildings. The pickets, so far as he could see, were inch-and-quarter; he would not say positively, but he thought so. He was also of opinion that the base was inch stuff. He made a calculation on Saturday of what the fence might cost, as he had been led to understand that he would be called upon to give evidence with regard to it. Knew it was a six-foot fence by looking at it. Thought there were two pickets to each foot, and at that rate he calculated how much it would cost per 100 feet;—that would be 200 pickets to the 100 feet. He allowed 20 cents for each picket; allowed 300 feet of 3 x 6 rails, at \$20 per thousand; and about 50 cents for each post, the posts being ten feet long. If the posts were twelve feet, he would allow 60 cents. In each hundred feet there would be for posts \$6 50. He allowed so much a running foot for the base, which he calculated at getting at six cents per foot. He swore positively that the base of the fence was made of good common stock lumber. There would be one-fourth more to pay for inch-and-a quarter than for inch stuff. He could get inch-and-a quarter stuff at about six cents per foot at the factory. Having gone out and examined the fence, he said the base was inch stuff. He did not think there was any difference in prices just now from last summer. In calculating the value of the posts at 50 cents each, he calculated upon the cost of dressing at ten cents. He thought this was a little under, and afterwards said perhaps 50 cents was also a little under for the whole thing. The spikes at the foot of each post to prevent them from rising with the frost would cost about twenty-five cents per post, and he allowed fifty cents for digging and filling in. He allowed five days' work at \$2 50 per day, for each hundred feet.

Hon. Mr. FRASER—Then you could put it up at a York shilling a foot for labour? I ask you upon your oath.

A—Yes; that is for nailing it on. I calculate upon getting the stuff at the factory. There would be some expense getting the material there, but he could not tell how much he calculated upon for that. He never made any calculation as to the price of the nails; left them in the margin, but could not say what margin he allowed. At ninety cents to one dollar he calculated upon a good profit, but he refused to say how much he thought he would have. He thought his calculation was something over \$50 per 100 feet for the principal things—that was, the labour and the lumber. He considered 20 per cent. affair living profit. He knew Mr. McDonald, who he thought a first-class workman. The fence was a fair job. He thought that Mr. McDonald expected to make more out of jobs than the ordinary run, and witness thought he was right. Witness would not himself take jobs at the ordinary run in many cases. He thought Mr. Tully a good judge, and although witness thought the fence in question could be done for less than it was done, Mr. Tully was entitled to hold the opinion that it was a fair price. There were vast differences in opinion, even among contractors themselves, as was shown by their tenders for contracts. The gate posts put in

by Mr. McDonald were cased on one side, and the corner posts on two sides. Cased posts, in his opinion, were as expensive as squared posts. Mr. Wagner was a good, honest workman, and the opinion of Mr. Wagner as to this work would be as good as that of any other man in Toronto. There was a difference of opinion as to the cost of work many times; sometimes Mr. Wagner tendered lower than witness, and sometimes witness was lower than Mr. Wagner. He repeated that he would take Mr. Wagner's opinion as soon as that of any man in the city.

The witness was then discharged, and the Committee adjourned at 11:10.