

I think that I have given you pretty much the substance of all that took place with the exception of the interview that I had with the original grantees. About the time these roads were to be commenced, it was intimated to me that it would be necessary for the city to have some knowledge of the parties who owned the grant and who were about to commence the work, and that the Mayor of the city should see that the ordinance was faithfully carried out.

Question. Do I understand you that this was after the assignment?

Answer. It was after the assignment. I sent for the City Commissioner, who was the person named in the bill who was to have the supervision of this work during its progress, and he informed me that they were about to proceed. I then sent a communication to the original grantees—I think I sent a note to Mr. Travers on the subject—and they waited upon me. I wanted to know the state of things existing at that time—who the proprietors of the Rail Road were, and with whom I was to open my communication, in order to see that the ordinance was strictly complied with. Those gentlemen called to see me in a body; I think they were all there with the exception perhaps of one grantee, and the substance of what took place at that interview is pretty much what was stated to you in the testimony of Travers himself. He has stated substantially what he stated to me when I questioned him on the subject of what had been done in reference to this road.

I will do the original grantees the justice to say that they made every explanation that I desired at their hands. There was no disposition on their part so far as I could learn to conceal anything from the city. They expressed a determination to see that the ordinances were carried out in good faith, and that the 7th Section was complied with. I inferred that some difference of opinion had existed between the original grantees and the assignees as to this question of opening books, and I think they assured me at that interview that they would see that the books were opened in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance: and subsequently, as it appears, they did open the books themselves, after it had been determined on the part of Messrs. Brock & Co. that they had no legal power to do so.

This question of the opening of the books was the point upon which I found it necessary to interfere. I thought the ordinance had not been complied with, and I talked with some friends of these gentlemen on the subject, and learned that in their judgment there was a legal difficulty in the way, and I understood that Mr. Brock had been so advised.

Mr. Brock I have never seen but once. He called to see me soon after I had had this interview with these gentlemen, and said he was the representative of the proprietors of the road, and that he had called to say that if I desired any information in reference to the road he was prepared to give it. I think I told him that I could not recognize him; I looked to the original grantees. That was the only interview I ever had with Mr. Brock, until he was pointed out to me here to-day.

That is the substance of what I know in relation to this matter.

Question. State whether you would have signed that bill if the clause had not been inserted that the books should be opened?

Answer. I certainly should not.

Question. Upon your reading that clause, and your construction of