

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

RELATING TO CERTAIN ITEMS SET OUT ON PAGES R—22 AND 23 OF  
THE AUDITOR'S REPORT UNDER THE HEADING "LAND AND  
DAMAGES, TRENT CANAL."

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 49,  
13th July, 1899.

The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts met, Mr. FRASER (Guys-  
boro') in the chair.

Mr. R. J. McLAUGHLIN called, sworn and examined:

*By Mr. Hughes:*

Q. On page R—22, Auditor General's Report for the year ending 30th June, 1898, I find your name and that of Patrick Fitzgerald under the heading of "Land and Damages, Carden, east half lot 1, con. 8, \$72." Give us the details of that item. What is your connection with it; that is what I want to know?—A. About a year ago I was appointed agent to the Minister of Justice up there in North Victoria, and Patrick Fitzgerald had a claim for expropriated land, the files of which were forwarded to me by the Deputy Minister of Justice; and we were asked to search the title, draw the conveyance and have it executed by Fitzgerald, and return it with a report of the title, abstracts and certificates to the Minister of Justice, which we did. On the 12th of July, a year ago, I received the following letter from the Department of Justice:—

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OTTAWA, 11th July, 1898.

R. J. McLAUGHLIN, Esq.,  
Barrister, &c., Lindsay.

TRENT CANAL—CLAIM PATRICK FITZGERALD.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose herewith cheque No. 9598 of the Department of Railways and Canals in favour of yourself and Patrick Fitzgerald for the sum of \$72, being in payment of compensation for land taken for the Trent Canal, and damages thereto.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of cheque.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

A. POWER,  
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice.

On the same day I wrote as follows to Patrick Fitzgerald, inclosing the cheque:—

12th July, 1898.

PATRICK FITZGERALD, Kirkfield.

*Re* TRENT VALLEY CANAL.

DEAR SIR,—We inclose you cheque for \$72, payable to your order. Any store-  
keeper in Kirkfield will cash it for you. If they can't, if you will send it back to me,  
I will send you the money by express.

Yours truly,

R. J. McLAUGHLIN.