

ABANDONED HIS CHARGES.

Major Hodgins Admits He Was In the Wrong.

No Imputations Against Commission or Premier.

"We Have Been Thrown Down" Say Conservatives.

Ottawa, June 16.—Major Hodgins this afternoon frankly declared before the special committee of the House investigating his charges that he had no evidence to offer as to improper interference by the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners with the engineers, and none as to Hon. S. N. Parent's having attempted to influence Sir Wilfrid Laurier to refuse an investigation. The only issue now, he declared, was the proper and correct interpretation of the specifications, and he did not see that he was called upon to prove that. "I cannot," he added. The proper parties to settle that, he believed, were the arbitrators provided for by law, namely, the chief engineers respectively of the National Transcontinental Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific, who have power to call in a third party in case of a dispute. These gentlemen, he believed, would settle the question fairly and in the interests of the country, and he would prefer to give evidence before them. The foregoing was brought out before the committee chiefly as a result of questioning by Mr. Murphy, counsel of the commission, and Mr. E. M. Macdonald, M.P. To-night another development of note was the statement of Mr. Frank Hodgins, K. C., of Toronto, counsel for Major Hodgins, that he did not agree with the position taken by his client, though that gentleman had, of course, a perfect right to take it if he chose. It, however, he found on consultation with him that he was of the mind that Mr. Macdonald, M.P., and Mr. Carvell, M.P., claimed he was he would ask to be relieved of his retainer.

There was considerable discussion as to what course the committee should pursue. In effect the Liberal members held that unless some one came forward to make allegations against the commissioners there could be no sense in going on with the inquiry, which had narrowed down to the declaration of the witness making the original allegations, to a question to be decided by experts as to the interpretation of the specifications, and that the settlement of this by a proper tribunal was provided for.

Messrs. Leavitt and Barker, the Conservative members of the committee, protested against the inquiry closing in this way, taking the ground that it must proceed, even though a settlement of the disputes of the nature mentioned was provided for in the National Transcontinental Railway Act.

Shortly before 10 o'clock the committee adjourned until to-morrow morning. During the interval Mr. Hodgins will consult his client, so as to be able to state exactly what their respective positions are. In any event the air has been cleared to the extent that the imputations against the Transcontinental Commissioners and Sir Wilfrid Laurier are shown to have no ground, and there remains only a difference of opinion as to the correct view of the specifications.

"We have been thrown down" is the phrase the Conservatives are using to-night in reference to the fiasco. They were very keen when the investigation started, scenting scandal, and allied themselves quite openly with Major Hodgins, and on the platform, and through the medium of their party organs have given garbled reports of the proceedings, with the sole intent of misleading the public as to the situation. They are in the position to-night that Major Hodgins has abandoned his charges of impropriety, and has left them completely in the air.

When the committee met this afternoon Mr. Murphy, after examining Major Hodgins on a number of matters, spent a long time trying to get Major Hodgins to say whether the classification approved by the commission differed from that recommended by the chief engineer, as was alleged in his (Major Hodgins) charges. The witness finally stated that the chief engineer's recommendation was open to two interpretations.

Mr. Murphy—So that in your opinion he is wrong, mostly because you disagree with him?
Major Hodgins—Yes, I disagree with him.
In answer to a further question by Mr. Murphy, Major Hodgins said: "It seems to me the only issue now is the correct interpretation of these specifications, and I do not see that I am called upon to prove it. I cannot."

Nothing But Classification.
Mr. Macdonald—You regard that as practically the only question left now—the question of whether your view of the classification is correct? A.—That is all.
Mr. Macdonald—I understand that you have gathered since coming into this matter, major, that you feel you cannot say that you have any imputations to make on the commissioners in regard to any improper interference with the engineers, for instance? A.—With those opinions there I do not see that I have.
Mr. Macdonald—And you are not in a position to offer any evidence to say that they have exercised any improper interference with the engineers? A.—No.

Mr. Macdonald—In regard to the statement made here, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused an investigation of your complaint on account of the influence exercised over him by Mr. Parent, I understand you are not in a position to offer any evidence of Mr. Parent's having attempted to influence Sir Wilfrid Laurier in any way? A.—No.
Mr. Macdonald—You have no evidence of that? A.—I have none.

Should Go to Arbitrators.
Mr. Macdonald—You said the other day that you did not regard this committee as the proper tribunal to determine the question at issue? A.—With all deference to the committee, I do not. It was an engineering dispute, and so far as he was concerned, he quite believed that the board of arbitrators appointed for the purpose and mentioned above was the only right tribunal to determine it.
Mr. Macdonald—Any evidence you

to offer in regard to this matter or whatever is left of it is evidence that you would prefer to give to the tribunal of arbitrators appointed under the statute? A.—Exactly.
Mr. Macdonald—They are people in whom you have confidence that they can settle this question fairly and in the interests of the country? A.—Absolutely.

Mr. Macdonald—And you are prepared to accept their judgment on the question of classification? Answer—Certainly.
After some further questioning Mr. Macdonald said: "I think every one of us here recognizes Major Hodgins' position. I think in stating that he has stated here to-day he has shown himself to be a frank and honorable man, who realizes that a mistake has been made on certain lines, and who is asking to admit it. I think he is entitled to the full credit that every man deserves when he sees that he has taken an improper course and wants to remedy what has been done."

Mr. Macdonald further observed: "You do not desire to press before this committee any charge of wrongdoing on the part of the commission, so far as their interference with the engineers is concerned? Is that a fair statement? A.—That is right.
Mr. Macdonald—And so far as that phase of the inquiry is concerned you do not offer any evidence? A.—It is simply this, that I do not see why I should stand the expense of finding out whether the specification is right or wrong.

Mr. Macdonald—Or whether the academic question between engineers should be settled at your expense? That is the position you take? A.—Yes.

GOLDEN WEST.

Perfect Weather—Crop Prospect Good—Help Will Be Scarce.

Winnipeg, June 16.—The condition of the crops, as reviewed in the departmental report issued by the Government of Manitoba this morning, is most gratifying. The weather has been perfect, and the moisture is ample in all parts of the Province to carry the grain for a considerable time, which almost assures a heavy yield. The fine weather enabled the farmers to increase the acreage materially. The total area under crop is 4,978,000 acres, an increase of 142,813 acres over last year. Of this 4,809,748 acres are under grain, and the balance in roots, the increase in grain being 102,200 acres. Considerably over half of this is under wheat. Grain at the present time indicates the largest crop in the history of agriculture in the Canadian west. There is bound to be a shortage of farm help, and even at present the Government correspondents report that 24,642 farm laborers are required in the Province as well as over five thousand female servants.

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JENNIE WANTED TO GROW.

Stood in Rain on Fourth Floor Fire Escape.

New York, June 16.—Standing in the rain on the fourth floor fire escape at No. 303 East 16th street last night, because she wanted "to grow into a girl," Jennie Fiorillo, five years old, fell through the opening to the ground and was instantly killed.

Jennie, who was small for her age, had several older and taller sisters, who have frequently told the child that she must hurry if she meant to catch up with them. When the rain came yesterday they laughingly advised her to stand under the shower, which, they said, would surely add several inches to her height. Jennie took their words seriously, and when the family gathered in the kitchen early in the evening she was missed. Joseph Fiorillo, her father, found the window open, and outside, with the rain pouring upon her, stood the little girl. He ordered her inside, but she refused to come, pleading that she wanted to become as tall as her sisters. The father stepped forward to seize her arm. Jennie checked herself in perspiration, and a hole in the landing. Striking the railing at the third floor, she was hurled to the pavement of the court below, and when picked up was dead.

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Dominion Day Excursions.

On account of Dominion Day, the Grand Trunk Railway System will issue return tickets at single fare between all stations in Canada, also to Detroit and Port Huron, Mich., Buffalo, Black Rock and Suspension Bridge, N. Y., good going June 30, July 1, returning on or before July 2, 1908. Secure tickets from any Grand Trunk ticket agent.

MRS. GUNNESS' FUNERAL.

Murderer and Her Children to Be Buried in Chicago.
Laporte, Ind., June 16.—Coroner Mack To-day ordered the bodies of Mrs. Belle Guinness and the four children who lost their lives in the destruction of the Guinness house on April 28th to be turned over to the public executor, who has arranged for their shipment to Chicago for burial Thursday, in accordance with a request made by Mrs. Guinness in her will.

GOLD FROM KLONDIKE.

First Shipment of Bars and Bricks at Vancouver.
Vancouver, B. C., June 16.—A quarter of a million dollars in gold was stacked up in bars and bricks of various sizes at the local branch of the Government assay office on Hastings street this morning. It represented the first large shipment of the year from the Klondike to the coast, and was in accordance with a request made by the owners, who have recently made the spring clean-up in the north.



PRACTICAL EVERY-DAY COSTUME.

Nos. 2250-2268.—All seams allowed.—There is no style of costume more practical for a young girl's every-day attire than the ever popular shirtwaist of taffetas of surah silk (or of India-head or handkerchief linen, Victoria or Persian lawn, pique or duck), combined with the separate skirt of serge, mohair, voile, cheviot or tweed. The shirtwaist (2250) known as the "Marie Antoinette" model is developed in dark blue taffeta silk, the front ornamented with five narrow tucks each side of the centre box-plait, stitched to nearly the bust line. The back is plain, with the exception of a 3-4 inch tuck which extends over the shoulder and down the front. The turned-back tuck cuffs and centre box-plait are trimmed with a narrow ruffle of the taffetas. The skirt (2268) is a four-gored circular model of dark-blue serge with plaits at the front and back. Two bands of self-colored mohair braid are put on above the hem, about four inches apart as a trimming.

For a miss of 15 years the shirt-waist requires 3 3/4 yards of material 20 inches wide, 3 1/4 yards 27 inches wide, 2 1/8 yards 36 inches wide, or 2 yards 42 inches wide; with 1-2 yards of linen 27 inches wide for collar and 1-2 yards of material 20 inches wide, 3-8 yards 27 inches wide, or 1-4 yard 36 or 42 inches wide, extra, for fluted ruffles. The pattern is in 3 sizes—13 to 17 years. Price of pattern, 10 cents.
For a miss of 15 years the skirt requires 6 1/2 yards of material 20 inches wide, 3 5/8 yards 36 inches wide, 3 1/4 yards 42 inches wide, or 2 1/4 yards 54 inches wide; with 7 1/4 yards of braid to trim. The pattern is in 3 sizes—13 to 17 years. Price of pattern, 10 cents.

Address, "Pattern Department," Times Office, Hamilton.
It will take several days before you can get pattern.

Fun for Times Readers

She Didn't Crack.

"Johnnie," said a teacher in a physiology class, "can you give a familiar example of the human body as it adapts itself to changed conditions?"
"Yes-sun," said Johnnie; "my aunt gained fifty pounds in a year, and her skin never cracked."

A Transformation.

Knicker—Do you think hoopskirts will ever return?
Bocker—The women are wearing them on their heads this year.—New York Sun.

Puzzled.

"Nature makes nothing in vain," said the philosopher.
"Perhaps answered Col. Stillwell. "Though I can't quite explain the presence of a great big beautiful mint bed in a local option county."—Washington Star.
Surprising.
"I have here," said the long-haired visitor, who had wandered into the sporting editor's room by mistake, "I have here a short poem I wrote on 'Niagara Falls.'"
"Don't say!" snorted the sporting editor. "How in thunder did you keep your paper from getting wet?"—The Catholic Standard and Times.



A DIFFERENT HAUL.

She-I wonder what young De Vere means when he speaks of his ancestral haul?
He—He probably means his ancestral haub. His father used to be a van driver.

A Rural Financier.

"Bill, you go up an' clear up 'bout ten acres of new ground," whilst John gits 'bout twenty acres ready for cotton, an' Dick lays off sixty fer corn, an' two hundred fer watermelons; then, handle the mules with the mortgages and lay in a year's provisions, an' I'll stay home an' figger jest how fur we'll be behind when the year's out!"—Atlanta Constitution.

In the Good Old Time.

Son—What does this mean, father?
"There is room for all on the earth!"
Father—Ah, that refers to the time before there were any motors.—Megendorfer Blaetter.

An Egotist.

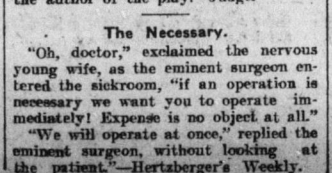
Giles—Winding is certainly stuck on his job.
Miles—What job?
Giles—He's a self-made man, you know.—Chicago News.

Easy Enough Once.

Mrs. Homely—My husband is extremely hard to please.
Miss Caustique—Indeed! You don't look it.—Utica Observer.

Nothing Worse.

Heilress—But, father, that handsome count says he will do something desperate and awful if I do not marry him.
Father (dryly)—He will. He will have to go to work.—Baltimore American.



HAD WARM TIME.

SUPREME COURT OF I. O. F. HELD THREE MEETINGS.

Mr. Elliott G. Stevenson Replied to Attacks That Had Been Made Against Him—More Rumors Regarding To-day's Elections.

Toronto, June 17.—Though the Supreme Court of the Independent Order of Foresters held three sessions yesterday in the Temple building, it was not until last night that any excitement developed. It seems that last night the delegates were pledged to more than ordinary secrecy, but some of the general trend of the discussion leaked out. In the words of one representative, "I really happened upon a complete vindication of the Supreme Chief Ranger," Mr. Elliott G. Stevenson, with reference to any rumored charges that may have been made against him.

Following the meeting came rumors of other changes with reference to the elections. Mr. George Mitchell, the chief organizer for Central Ontario, who was being urged by many to run for the Chief Supreme Treasurer, the office now occupied by Mr. Harry A. Collins. It was stated definitely also that Mr. E. J. Hearn, of this city, would be a candidate for that office. Another rumor was to the effect that Mr. W. H. Hunter would not be a candidate for the office of Supreme Counselor, a position which he holds at present, since the candidature of Mr. John G. H. Myers, of New York, for this office has developed strongly of late. Mr. Hunter would not say last night whether he would contest the office or not. The elections will probably take place this afternoon.

The court was formally opened yesterday morning, though outside of the report of the Supreme Chief Ranger was transacted. The afternoon was largely taken up with the reading of resolutions and the suggestions of delegates regarding the amendment of the constitution. These resolutions were all referred to the committees to deal with.

One outstanding resolution was moved by the Supreme Chief Ranger himself and provides for the appointment of a standing committee to pass upon all loans and also investigate any past loans. This committee will be given a great deal of latitude, if the resolution finds a favor with all the delegates, and it may conduct investigations as to business done in the past with regard to loans. As the resolution at present stands all its members have to be unanimous before any loan can be directed into certain channels.

A number of other resolutions were introduced calling for information with reference to the workings of the head office. Statements concerning the number of employees, their salaries as well as other information are desired. It will depend largely upon "these returns if any drastic steps will be taken towards cutting down expenses.

CHURCH CASH REGISTERS.

Pay-as-You-Enter Device at Worcester, Mass.
New York, June 16.—A despatch to the Tribune from Worcester, Mass., says: Announcement was made to the parishioners of St. Casimir's Church to-day by the new parish priest that Bishop Beaver had refused their application to have an auditing committee, but instead had ordered that cash registers be put in the church.

They will be placed at the entrances before next Sunday, and then the churchgoers must give up their dimes at the door, paying as they enter and can see their money registered. In this way the Bishop expects to do away with the tangles, financial and otherwise, in which the new priest found the affairs of the church on his arrival here a week ago.

STITCHED WOMAN'S HEART.

Remarkable Operation in a New York Hospital.
New York, June 16.—Another operation involving the stitching of wounds in the human heart was reported yesterday from Roosevelt Hospital. Susan Grace, colored, of No. 243 West Sixty-first street, who was stabbed three times by another woman, was the patient.

Drs. C. F. Peck and Frederick Von Croft found a gash an inch long in the heart. They cut the ligaments and tissues surrounding the organ and took two stitches in it. They kept the initial incision open for antiseptic treatment. They say the patient has a good chance for recovery.

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