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EVIDENCES

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the Agriculture, Statistics and Health department, seemed to be a dangerous thing for the Government; and it was proposed to drop it entirely.

In 1883-4-5 there was received from the Dominion Government \$2,500 per year for furnishing agriculture and health statistics; in 1886 the Government here were notified that it was not desired to continue the arrangement; and that amount was not now received. He desired to call the attention of the House to the fact that the cheque for the payment for 1884 left Ottawa on the 20th of February, 1885; it arrived at the Department of Agriculture here on March 3rd, 1885; and reached the treasurer's office June 30th 1885; that is 119 days after it had reached the department of Agriculture across the hall. It seemed curious that it should have taken so long; and he found it necessary to send to Ottawa for a duplicate cheque, which he now held in his hand with the signatures and endorsements. The face of the cheque showed that it issued 20th Feb. 1885, was for \$2,500, was for agricultural and industrial statistics and was signed by Mr. Lowe, Ottawa. The back of the cheque showed that it was endorsed by Acton Burrows, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Statistics and Health. Where it had gone between March and June

#### DID NOT APPEAR;

but the money was evidently used for private purposes with the interest \$48.00. The money was abstracted, used illegally and returned 119 days after it had been received; or just in time to get it in the financial year.

The payment for 1885 was dated Ottawa, June 17, 1886, it reached the Winnipeg Department of Agriculture June 21, 1886; but did not reach the treasurer's department until Feb. 18th, 1888, after the present Government came into office. The Government found that the money had not been paid by the Dominion Government; and, being hard up for money and looking about for accounts to collect, thought proper to ask for it when they were told it had been paid. The correspondence led on to other information from time to time until these details came under his (the Provincial Treasurer's) notice. On the back of the cheque was the endorsement of A. A. LaRiviere, and under his signature was that of Acton Burrows. That cheque was 607 days in crossing the hall from one department to the other; and the interest at 6 per cent. amounting to \$249.49 was lost to the treasury. The amount was handed to the deputy treasurer in the Merchants' bank on Feb. 18th in cash, without any statement, Hon. Mr. LaRiviere handing it to the deputy treasurer in the presence of a witness. He (Hon. Mr. Jones) wrote to Mr. LaRiviere for an explanation, but never received a reply.

Referring to the subject of

#### MARRIAGE LICENSES,

Mr. Jones read the following letter from

the special auditors, Messrs. John McDonald and Alex. Moffat, dated 12th April, 1888:

"We have the honor to make this special report on the following matters which you will find included in supplementary statements of assets and liabilities, accompanying our interim report dated the 7th inst., viz: The balance of \$381.55 at credit of the Board of Agriculture (now abolished) bearing no interest, might with advantage, to the extent of interest, be transferred to the general funds of the Province. The marriage license act, clause 14, might be so amended that the fees collected be in future paid in at once to the Treasurer, instead of "at the end of each fiscal year" as at present directed. The fees so collected from the commencement of the current fiscal year to the 16th January last, amounted to \$1,294.50, and in deposit in the Imperial Bank, bearing 3 per cent. interest. The interest credited to the account kept in the name of the "Minister of Agriculture, Statistics and Health," amounting in the aggregate to \$42.11, appeared to have been regarded as a perquisite belonging to the chief clerk, Mr. A. W. Johnston, and drawn out by him on cheques signed by the Hon. D. H. Harrison, as Minister of Agriculture, Statistics and Health. The cheques are handed you herewith. Immediate steps will no doubt be taken to have all these amounts placed in the hands of the Provincial Treasurer, and we would now repeat our strong recommendation to have all revenues paid into the treasury, which would prevent irregularities and effect a considerable saving in interest.

In connection with the auditors' report was a statement of Imperial Bank cheques signed by D. H. Harrison for various amounts, the 1st dated June 30th, 1887, in favor of the Provincial Treasurer for \$2,406.50; then, June 2nd, one payable to A. W. Johnston for \$10.35; June 3rd, to the same, for \$31.75. Thus it was shown that the interest accruing on the moneys were not paid to the Province, but considered, not only by the official, but by the Minister of the Department, as due to the persons in the department. Considerable amounts were found to have been paid out in the same way, from the same fund:—Dec. 4th, 1885, cheque, \$50.05; June 4th, 1886, cheque, \$24.86; June 3rd, 1887, cheque to A. W. Johanson, \$31.76; Jan. 2nd, 1888, cheque to A. W. Johnson, \$10.35; total, \$123.02. The first of these were not available, nor was the bank book, so that there was no way of tracing these particular moneys except by going to the bank. The law in 1884

#### WAS VERY CLEAR

with reference to marriage license moneys; he referred to Cap. 10, section 42, which provided that "The amount so paid to the said department shall be credited to the issuers by whom paid, and shall be forthwith handed over by the department to the Treasurer of the Province." In 1886 it was thought desirable, evidently, that this law should be changed; and in Cap. 41 section 5, the word "forthwith" was struck out, and instead the words "at the end of each fiscal year to form part of the consolidated revenue fund of the Province," were inserted. That law was as-