

## POTATO ENQUIRY RESUMED HERE YESTERDAY MORNING

John S. Eagles, J. B. Daggett, George B. Jones and John A. Morris Give Evidence—Mr. Jones Tells of Disposition of Amount Received from W. B. Tennant.

The potato enquiry was resumed yesterday morning before Commissioner McQueen. At the morning session evidence was given by John S. Eagles, regarding his connection with the buying of barrels for the shipment of the potatoes; by J. B. Daggett regarding a payment of \$5,000 and one of \$1,000, and by George B. Jones regarding the disposition of the \$51,500 received from W. B. Tennant. At the afternoon session John A. Morris, manager of the West Side branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, was on the stand and gave evidence of the financial dealings of A. C. Smith & Co. with the Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner J. A. McQueen presided. Peter J. Hughes represented the provincial government, and H. A. Powell, K.C., was present in the interests of Hon. J. A. Murray.

**Morning Session.**  
The first witness was John S. Eagles. He was shown a letter written in October of 1915, requesting a remittance from the provincial Department of Agriculture for barrels supplied, and asked by Mr. Hughes what his connection with the selling of barrels was. To this the witness replied that he was acting as agent for Taylor and White in the matter. He did not remember what the prices of the barrels were or the amount of commission he received on the transaction. Taylor and White would probably be able to supply that information.

Mr. Hughes—Did you not keep a record of this matter?  
Mr. Eagles—I have not been able to find any.  
Mr. Hughes—That is queer.  
Mr. Eagles—I am here to tell you all I know about the matter and I do not want any insinuations. I have told you that I simply acted as agent and received my commission, and that Taylor and White would probably be able to give you the details.  
Witness was shown a letter from the acting secretary of agriculture dated November 14, 1914, about empty barrels being taken away, but did not remember ever receiving such a letter.

Shown a letter dated September 16, 1914, written to the Minister of Agriculture, asking him to buy potatoes in Madawaska County, as it would be good business, witness did not remember writing it, but would say he did.

Mr. Hughes—What do you mean by good business?  
Mr. Eagles—Good political business.

**J. B. Daggett.**  
J. B. Daggett was recalled and gave evidence concerning a payment of \$5,000 and another of \$1,000 to A. C. Smith & Co. in connection with the payment of the \$5,000 in the spring of 1915, while he was ill in hospital. Hon. Mr. Murray had come to him and stated that A. C. Smith & Co. wanted some money, and asked if their account would warrant an advance of \$5,000. He told Mr. Murray it would, and then Mr. Murray arranged for the raising of the \$5,000 on a note. This note was discounted and the proceeds credited to A. C. Smith & Co. At maturity it was met by the proceeds of another note discounted at the Bank of Montreal, and when the second note became due it was deducted from the account of nine thousand and odd dollars rendered by A. C. Smith & Co.

With regard to the \$1,500 item, this was in settlement of accommodation owed A. C. Smith & Co. by Hon. Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray owed A. C. Smith & Co. the witness owed Mr. Murray; he had paid his indebtedness to Mr. Murray and the balance to meet the claim of Smith & Co. for \$1,500 had been supplied by Mr. Murray, and he, the witness, had deposited the amount to the credit of A. C. Smith & Co. It was a purely personal matter between himself, Mr. Murray, and A. C. Smith & Co.

The witness had been unable to find any statement as to the receipts from the Mineola shipment. The amount of \$863.69 in the auditor's statement, credited to culls, was the amount it was estimated ought to be made up to cover the loss.

**George B. Jones.**  
The next witness was G. B. Jones who in answer to questions from Mr. Hughes, said he had received from W. B. Tennant at various times sums amounting to \$81,500. The first amount had been \$40,000, of which \$33,900 had been handed to Mr. J. B. Daggett.

Mr. Hughes—You gave this \$33,900 to Mr. Daggett for Mr. Sumner, did you not?  
Mr. Jones—I did not. I gave him the money, but did not give him any instructions as to what was to be done with it.

Mr. Hughes—You knew it was to go to Mr. Sumner?  
Mr. Jones—I did not. I supposed he knew who it was for.

Mr. Hughes—Did you place the money in the vault?  
Mr. Jones—I did not.

Mr. Hughes—After you got the \$40,000 you got the other \$21,500 in different payments?  
Mr. Jones—Yes, the payments probably extended over a month.

Mr. Hughes—Over and above this \$81,500, did you receive other money from Mr. Tennant?  
Mr. Jones—Not another dollar.

Mr. Hughes—Not at any time?  
Mr. Jones—Not in connection with this enquiry. Any other money I received from Mr. Tennant was on private business transactions.

Mr. Hughes—in addition to the \$33,900 paid to Mr. Daggett, you mentioned when on the stand before a payment of \$10,000 to the Gleaner. Did you pay this to Mr. Crockett?  
Mr. Jones—It went to the Gleaner. I think probably Mr. Crockett got it. Mr. Jones then handed to Mr. Hughes the following memoranda, showing the disposition of the \$81,500: Westmorland County, B. Trites, \$10,000; Carleton County, Wallace Gibson, \$8,000; salary of organizer,

\$1,000; expenses of organizer, \$687.82; J. H. Crockett, for Gleaner, \$10,000; J. B. Daggett, \$33,900.

Mr. Hughes—Who was the organizer?  
Mr. Jones—H. W. Woods.

Mr. Hughes—With regard to this \$10,000 payment to the Gleaner, was this sent to Mr. Crockett?  
Mr. Jones—It was not sent all at one time. It was sent to Mr. Crockett personally by the organizer. It was paid at the request of the late Premier Clarke, who had told him when and how to pay it. The payments probably extended over two months.

With respect to the \$10,000 which went to Mr. Trites, this had been in two or three payments. He paid \$3,000 of the amount to Mr. Trites himself, the balance had been sent to him at different times. The \$6,000 which went to Carleton County had been sent to Mr. Gibson by a messenger.

Mr. Hughes—Who was this messenger?  
Mr. Jones—I do not think it is necessary to answer that question. I have told you where the money went and do not see the need of bringing in any one else.

Mr. Hughes—Was it B. Frank Smith?  
Mr. Jones—No, it was not B. Frank Smith or his colleague either.

Mr. Hughes—I must insist on having the name of the messenger.  
Mr. Jones—I refuse to answer.

Mr. Hughes—Then it is up to the commissioner to say whether he wants to know or not.

Commissioner McQueen then took a hand and asked why the distinction between naming the messenger and the other men.

To this Mr. Jones replied that the men named were those who had received the money.

Mr. McQueen—Is there any good reason why this name should not be named?  
Mr. Jones—Yes. He did not know what was in the package he delivered to Mr. Gibson. He was only told it was valuable.

Mr. Powell—Why insist on this man's name when it is not material to the enquiry?  
Mr. McQueen—As the man was in

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nocent in the matter I do not see that it will make any difference to tell the name.

Mr. Powell—This seems to me like an undue desire to nose around for congenial dirt.

Mr. Jones—Do you insist on having the name?  
Mr. McQueen—I think if it will not injure his reputation we should have it.

Mr. Powell—Oh, tell them who it was.  
Mr. Jones—John S. Eagles was the man. Now what good has it done to bring him into it?

Mr. Hughes—On whose instructions did you disburse this money?  
Mr. Jones—On those of the late Premier Clarke.

This concluded the evidence, and adjournment was made until 2.30.

When the enquiry was resumed after lunch, John A. Morris, manager of the West Side branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, was recalled, and gave evidence concerning the financial transactions between A. C. Smith & Co. and the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Morris had, at the request of Mr. Hughes, made up a record of the amount of overdue bills drawn by A. C. Smith & Co. on the department, and accepted by them. On April 30, 1915, the amount stood at \$10,918.50 and in addition there was \$3,190.40 from the Cuban shipments.

Mr. Powell asked if the drafts for the latter amount had all been accepted, and Mr. Morris replied that he did not know. Mr. Hughes stated that he believed they had not all been accepted. This made a total of \$14,108.90.

Questioned about settlements, the witness said there had been paid on April 30, 1915, \$5,000 and drafts for

\$9,152.05. These had been renewed at various times until on July 30, 1915, there was paid \$5,256.34 on account, and a draft for \$4,023.30. On August 31, there was paid a further sum of \$1,500 and a new draft for \$2,526.34. This latter draft was on October 20, charged to the account of A. C. Smith & Co.

Witness also produced three letters and these were placed in evidence.

The first dated Feb. 6, 1915, from J. B. Daggett, gave the bank authority to accept the signature of A. C. Smith & Co., as agents of the government in connection with the Cuban shipments; the second dated Feb. 22, 1915, also from Mr. Daggett, was of like tenor; the third dated March 26, 1915, was from Hon. J. A. Murray, and authorized the bank to accept the signature of J. C. Manzer, as agent of the department in connection with certain Cuban shipments.

Mr. Powell then took the witness in hand and in answer to his questions Mr. Morris said the statement presented was made up from the books of the bank, he had no knowledge of the details, and that so far as the books showed the payments were made by A. C. Smith & Co., or somebody from them, not by the government. So far as he could tell from the books no payment had been made by the government except the \$5,000 paid on April 30, 1915.

As Mr. Hughes had no more witnesses present, adjournment was made until this morning at 10.30, when it is expected Hon. J. A. Murray and J. H. Crockett will be on the stand.

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