

On the same day, April 20, it was announced in Winnipeg newspapers that V. W. Horwood, Provincial Architect, had left Winnipeg for the United States to undergo medical treatment in a Minnesota hospital.

Royal Commission Commences.

April 23.—Royal Commission holds preliminary session, makes orders for production of documents re Government contracts, and adjourns to April 27.

April 27.—Counsel for the contractors, Thos. Kelly & Sons, ask for adjournment, pleading lack of time to prepare, and having failed to produce documents ordered.

April 28.—Chairman of Commission orders production of evidence by Government, showing what efforts had been made to secure presence of William Salt to give evidence before the Public Accounts Committee. Salt was government inspector of work on foundation caissons and worked for the department of the Provincial Architect.

April 29.—P. G. McTavish, accountant in the department of the Provincial Architect testified that certain documents pertaining to the contracts had been removed from the Architect's office to the office of A. J. Andrews, counsel for the Roblin government. The Commission ruled that all these documents must be produced.

April 30.—Edwin Salt, brother of William Salt, testified that William Salt had been sent away before the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and that his brother had told of being instructed to alter records. Also testified that he had conferred with Hon. G. R. Coldwell, acting Minister of Public Works who had informed him that if called before the Public Accounts Committee, he need not tell his brother's address.

May 1.—After legal debate on rules of evidence, etc., Commission adjourned to May 7.

Admit Department Records False.

May 7.—Counsel for Kelly contends for first time that contract for caissons was for lump sum of \$844,037, and not on basis of yardage of concrete, as reported by Government. A. J. Andrews, counsel for Roblin Government, produces letter from Kelly to Horwood, bearing out this contention. Counsel admit that yardage of concrete shown in departmental vouchers is incorrect and that the amount of concrete shown was never put into the job.

Roblin Resigns.

May 12.—Roblin Government resigns and Lieutenant-Governor calls on Mr. T. C. Norris, the Liberal Leader, to form new Government.

May 17.—Announced before Royal Commission that new Government has stopped all work on Parliament buildings, pending full investigation.

May 20.—Formal announcement before Royal Commission that new Government will institute civil suit to recover from contractors all overpayments. Counsel for contractors, T. Kelly &

Sons, announce that they withdraw from proceedings of the Royal Commission.

May 25.—W. A. Elliott, chief government inspector on Parliament buildings, testified to having been sent by Horwood to the United States to confer with William Salt and have him come back to give evidence, but Salt next day said he had received instructions to remain in United States. Elliott returned to Winnipeg without Salt.

May 26.—Further evidence by Elliott shows elaborate system of false names used by himself, Horwood, Salt, and others in telegrams and in registering at hotels in United States.

May 27.—Telegrams produced indicate that Salt was given large sums of money to stay away from Winnipeg while Public Accounts Committee was sitting.

May 31.—Hon. Dr. Montague, Minister of Public Works in Roblin government, admitted he certified payments to Kelly as matter of form and claimed he had no personal knowledge as to their being correct.

June 1.—W. A. Elliott, in written statement, admitted that Hon. G. R. Coldwell had taken part in negotiations regarding Salt.

Another Contract, later Cancelled.

June 4.—Evidence of Acting Provincial Auditor, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Clerk of Executive Council and other clerks showed that just prior to provincial general election in July, 1914, Kelly was given a new additional contract for \$802,650, order-in-council being passed and recorded in the usual way. Later all records of this contract were destroyed in files and books, copies of order-in-council were destroyed and even one copy on the file of the Lieutenant-Governor was "borrowed" and destroyed.

June 7.—Sir Rodmond Roblin, before the Royal Commission, denied personal knowledge of anything wrong in relations between his Government and the contractors, but admitted that he believed Hon. G. R. Coldwell had allowed Kelly to put in his original tender one day late. Hon. Hugh Armstrong also denied personal knowledge but admitted that during the sittings of the Public Accounts Committee he began to think things were wrong and thought of resigning, but decided that he should stick with his colleagues.

June 8.—Sir Rodmond Roblin admitted before Royal Commission that he had personally ordered the destruction of all evidence of the later contract with Kelly for \$802,650, his reason being that he had decided that the contract should be called off and treated as if it had never been made.

After the Commission had resumed its sittings at Winnipeg, the name of Hon. Robert Rogers came into the evidence as having been in frequent conference with Dr. R. M. Simpson and also through cipher telegrams which passed between Hon. Mr. Rogers and Premier Roblin, Hon. Dr. Montague and Dr. Simpson about the time the Roblin government resigned. Further startling developments are expected.