

Public Accounts Committee.

Q. And what heading was then placed on it?—A. "Election cases;" without instructions from him, because he was not a member of the firm; had nothing to do with it since 1st Nov., 1897.

Q. Did you at any time discuss with Mr. Howell the peculiarity of there being no debtor?—A. Not at all, no.

Q. Did he ever, at any time, give you a reason for charging these to secret service?—A. No.

Q. And when did the charges first occur on what appears here?—A. June, 1896. That is, so far as I am concerned; that was the cash entry; I had no knowledge of the details at that time.

Q. When did your first charge occur; when did you first have knowledge of any charge being entered of cash?—A. The first payment of cash was 26th June, 1896.

Q. When was that paid?—A. \$10 paid to A. Robinson.

Q. For what?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. To whom did you pay that?—A. To Mr. A. Robinson.

Q. Who was he?—A. Some man Mr. Howell had there hunting up evidence; I do not know anything about him.

Q. You asked no questions?—A. No.

Q. He told you to pay it?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you what account?—A. No.

Q. Just to charge it to cash?—A. I asked him to whom I should charge the amount, and he told me to keep track of it till finished and he would tell me; he gave me no information.

Q. Did you, as a matter of fact, know what these charges were about?—A. I did not for some considerable length of time.

Q. You had no idea that they were in connection with Dominion elections?—A. I knew they had something to do with election matters.

Q. It was not your business to press him as to particulars?—A. Oh, no, Mr. Howell told me to keep the account that way.

Q. What was your next charge in the cash book?—A. "July 13th, 1896. Cash paid J. H. Shoemaker, \$400." He was a Pinkerton detective.

Q. What is the next in the cash book?—A. 6th July; they are not posted here in order; that is how they come here.

Q. You are reading from the ledger?—A. Yes.

Q. Would you, then, just give us the account as it appears in the ledger from the start; "Election cases" is the heading?—A. Yes. This account is set forth on page 151 of the evidence (of last year).

Q. Then, on page 151 of the printed evidence, Exhibit "V," "memo. of disbursements, etc.; election irregularities," the entries are as they appear in the ledger of Archibald & Howell, but they are headed "Election cases"?—A. And the heading was put on, as I explained, by myself.

Q. Before you put that heading on there was no heading?—A. There was no heading.

Q. And the balance of the account was \$5.19?—A. Yes, as appears in the printed evidence (of last year), and that is the balance that starts the 1897 account filed here to-day as Exhibit No. 16.

Q. Now, what is the next document or paper you produce?—A. In that detailed statement of mine there appears a large item of witness fees paid at Portage la Prairie assizes, \$3,533.20; I produce a declaration of Mr. Howell's as to the payment of these witness fees at Portage assizes, together with a lot of exhibits.

Q. This is a declaration made on the 3rd of June, A.D. 1899?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Until that time are you aware whether any similar declarations had been made by him?—A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Do you know how he came to make this?—A. I was asked to produce the vouchers and I asked him to give me the vouchers.