

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

the 40 which Mr. Aylesworth had allowed him for, and I said 'That will leave 12 acres, which at Mr. Aylesworth's valuation, would make \$240', and I reported to the government accordingly.

Q. And you were willing to stand by Mr. Aylesworth's valuation?—A. Yes, but I would not have put it so high.

Q. Was that greater than you had been allowing people in the same neighbourhood?—A. Yes.

Q. You wouldn't interfere with Mr. Aylesworth's valuation?—A. I would not interfere with it, he was a gentleman for whose judgment I have a very high respect, and I would not interfere with his work.

Q. So that was \$240 you were willing to allow him?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he accept it?—A. I understand he didn't. I haven't seen him since until I saw him the other day before the Commission in Hastings.

By Mr. Carvell:

Q. Well, now, did you in any case, Mr. Dickson, allow damages for land in your judgment had not been flooded?—A. I did not.

Q. You did not?—A. I did not.

Q. And when you came to these people along the Ouse river that would be—A. As a general thing if there was a dispute as to an acre or so I used to give the people the benefit of the doubt, the poor people that owned the land.

Q. Take the case of G. A. L. Humphries. Was his land damaged?—A. It was.

Q. James Warner?—A. Yes.

Q. Thomas Davidson?—A. Yes.

Q. John Breckinridge?—A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Birdsall?—A. Mrs. Birdsall, I don't know. It was Mr. Aylesworth's valuation.

Q. And John Sargent?—A. Yes.

Q. All these lands were damaged by water?—A. Yes.

Q. As the result of the big overflow from the Hastings dam?—A. I have not the slightest doubt of it.

Q. Are you aware, Mr. Humphries says most of these with one or two exceptions are not damaged?—A. I heard him say so.

Q. What do you say about it?—A. I say it is not true.

Q. They were damaged?—A. They were damaged.

Q. And everything that you allowed was in your judgment an honest valuation for the damage sustained?—A. An honest valuation. Yes. I told the people: 'The government don't want to wrong you out of a dollar, and I want to see that you don't wrong them out of a dollar, and I will try as far as I can and judge between you.'

Q. And what you did, you did regardless of Mr. Clarry or any other lawyer?—A. Or anybody else.

Q. You spoke of a percentage of people who were reasonable, I think you said about 10 per cent, who left it to your judgment?—A. I think they would be about that. They would not say any amount at all. They said, 'We will leave it to you to do what you think is right.'

By Mr. Lennox:

Q. They would not mention any figures?—A. No.

Q. They left it to you to mention in whatever was signed?—A. And whenever they did that I mentioned it in the offer of settlement.

Q. Are you speaking generally or of these claims of Clarry as well?—A. Generally.

Q. And would the same thing apply to the claims put in by Clarry?—A. Yes. There is no doubt in the world no matter who put them in.

Q. The tariff was the same whether Clarry or any person else put them in?—A. Yes.