

pay for the boots, as if the men had been working for the Government—paying the men for rubber boots—hiding it from the Government and returning time for the men, to pay for the boots, that they never worked. This is the evidence of the foreman. The Government did not know that these boots were bought until the question came up in the investigation, because the men were given extra time that they did not work in order to pay for the boots, and they were paid at the canal office. It is little short of a conspiracy against the Government. Adam Flood, at page 1014, says that he had two days extra time allowed him to help to pay for the rubber boots. Robert Secord, at page 930, says that he got two pairs of boots and paid for one pair to Mr. Demare at the canal office, and he was allowed extra time to pay for half of the price of one pair. Conflicting evidence is given on this point. Some of the witnesses stated that they were allowed one day, others that they were allowed two days, but it was not likely that I could elicit straightforward evidence with Mr. Rykert, who had got these men appointed, and Mr. Ellis and Mr. Demare, who had the power of dismissing them sitting opposite them at the table. Of course, in the official report you will find the remarks which passed between Mr. Rykert and myself, because they form no part of the evidence: but if you would look at the newspapers of that time you would find some interesting reading. You will find that Mr. Rykert openly abused witnesses who did not give evidence to suit him. James Hindson, at page 1157, says that he got two pairs of boots, and paid for one pair in cash himself. He was allowed one day's time—\$2—to help pay for the other pair. At page 1883 Roger Miller, the contractor, says that J. & R. Miller got paid \$55 for rubber boots in 1888. He knows all about that. He was repairing the pier at Port Dalhousie, under Mr. Page's instructions. Now, if the Government paid J. & R. Miller \$55 for these rubber boots, why should the men have extra time allowed them to pay for half of them, and Miller get the balance? On the subject of maladministration, I would call your attention to the evidence of Thomas Jones, a lock-tender, at page 1026. He was allowed to leave his lock for six weeks to work for other parties, and put another man in his place. He was allowed

to work at the rubber factory that I spoke of the other day—that sink hole into which so much of the public money no doubt has gone. He was also allowed to work at the band hall three or four days while he should have been on his lock, and he worked at Demare's house also. Richard Hutton, who is also a lock-tender, worked at the rubber factory about six weeks. I would refer you to the evidence at pages 1406, 1407 and 1423, for Mr. Page's opinion about farming out lock-tenders. He says that it is a very bad practice and should not be allowed—that it is not safe to let these experienced men leave their locks and put green hands in their places. Now, these lock-tenders were sent away from the canal by Mr. Demare to work for private parties. I would refer you also to the evidence of Volney Mann at page 1089. He says he got orders from Mr. Dell, Deputy Superintendent, to take some pine plank from the Government yard to Mr. Dell's barn, and that he took twelve or fourteen in all. James Dell himself, at page 1106, says that the plank were new plank—Government plank, remember—and that he has them in his stable yet in the floor. Thomas Ryan, at page 1114, says that there were twelve or fourteen planks taken to Dell's place by Volney Mann. I come now to the evidence of Chester Demare, father of the deputy superintendent. He lives with his son, and is, therefore, in a position to know what he speaks of. At page 1140 of the evidence, he says that the deputy superintendent burns gas in his house—five jets—and to the best of his knowledge he has burned it for two or three years. Chester Demare, though an old man, is employed on the canal. He has been a good man in his day, and if I referred to the fact that he had been dismissed from the canal because of his dissipated habits, and was afterwards taken back, it was to show that Mr. Ellis did not always adhere to his cast-iron rule. Of course, it was natural that the son should take care of his father, but he should have been ashamed to pension him off on this country when he was able to take care of him himself. Chester Demare has been employed making wheelbarrows all winter, and has been drawing pay at \$2 a day. Francis Timmons says, in his evidence, that Mr. Demare had no authority from the gas company to burn gas in his house.