

BRIDGE ENQUIRY.

Famine Prices Paid in a Year of Plenty.

Hon. Mr. Ryan Like the Man Who Went Down to Jericho.

The proceedings in the enquiry Friday morning commenced by Commissioner Emmerson asking Dr. Stockton:

Are the witnesses whom you wished, present this morning?

Dr. Stockton—Not all. Mr. Jennings is here; but I would prefer that we should have Mr. Retallick's statement first.

Commissioner Emmerson—Is Mr. Retallick in court?

As the witness was not present, the examination was begun by calling John Jennings who, sworn, said: I reside in Carleton, near Negrotown Point; do laboring work.

The examination was suspended for a few minutes pending the arrival of Messrs. Stackhouse and Retallick.

Dr. Stockton asked for subpoenas for Levi Colwell, Byrne, caretaker at Suspension bridge, and Wm. Knight.

The commissioner then said that the following had been handed in by Mr. Retallick: "Statement of persons who were paid \$2 per day on repairs on suspension bridge: E. Neve, J. Crozier, J. A. Murphy, E. McGarrigle, J. Gregg, J. Cobham, E. Lambert, O. Beattie, F. Rogers, W. Beattie, R. Jennings, H. McLeod, McLeod.

John Jennings resumed: I do not know any other man of my name in the city. I remember 1892. I did not work on suspension bridge that year at all, and I know of no other man of my name.

Mr. Stackhouse stated that he thought there was a mistake. He could not find any name of J. Jennings on his time book.

The commissioner said that an opportunity would be afforded Mr. Stackhouse to give testimony.

Henry H. McLeod was the next witness. I reside in Carleton, am a laborer, not a carpenter. Born and brought up in Carleton. Remember work being done on Suspension bridge in 1892. I worked there; could not say whether I worked a month or a year, or a half. That is as near as I can come to it. I was put at carpenter work. I do work at it; am an all round man. Was paid weekly, on Saturdays. Got \$2 per day. Was employed by Mr. Retallick, who told me to go to work and did not speak of any rate of pay. I did not receive any more than two dollars per day.

To commissioner—I have no knowledge of the value of lumber.

LEVI COLWELL, who was the next witness—Am a carpenter have resided in Carleton on suspension bridge 1892. My son worked with me. I was employed by Mr. Retallick. We did not come to any definite arrangement as to pay for the work. I think I worked there in June and continued until the work was nearly completed. Got paid every Saturday night. The first Saturday night I was paid \$2 per day and so on the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth Saturday nights it was the same. At the first Saturday night I did not expect to get any more than \$2 per day; nor on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th Saturday nights did I expect to get any more. When I did find out that there was \$2.50 per day I refused to take \$2 myself. I happened to see some one having a little more change than me and I thought I had as good a right to it as they. One of the men working alongside of me was getting more, that was Mr. Landers. The way I found it out I saw one man had \$15. I took another way to find it out. I asked Mr. Landers who of us were getting \$2.50 per day. He named over himself, my son and some others were getting it. That was a "surprise" to me. That was being kept quiet. (Ruled out).

Q.—From what happened after you went to work and the circumstances that came under your observation, and from the amounts that were paid to you at first for working on the bridge, was it not being kept quiet who was getting two dollars and a half a day?—Ruled out.

Dr. Stockton contended that that was a legal question and entitled to be answered.

Witness—After I had conversation with Landers I saw Mr. Stackhouse. The job was nearly through then, about a fortnight or three weeks before completion. I named it to Mr. Stackhouse and wondered why I was working alongside of men doing the same work and they getting \$2.50 and I getting \$2. He said he thought Mr. Retallick hired me for \$2. I said I never was hired for any \$2. I said to my son I would lock up my tools and go home. I said my boy went home and did not go back again. I asked Retallick for my time. He said he would give it to me after a bit. Mr. Stackhouse came to see me in Carleton that very afternoon. He did not bring any statement of my time. He said, "Boys, we've got to come to a settlement." I might have told him I would have my \$2.50 per day. He said, "Boys, we must have this thing fixed up." I said, "Yes, that's what we want." That's about all until we figured up the time and got it right.

The commissioner—(Q.) Billed down, you got the \$2c. a day extra. (A.) Yes.

and Retallick agreed with you to give you \$2.50 per day, after the work had been completed when you had been paid for that work as your wages \$2 per day?

(A.) There was perhaps a little misunderstanding as to the wages when we started. There was no agreement when we started and the first week when I got \$2 a day there was nothing about it. Retallick at the start said, "I will be \$2 anyway and \$2.50 if I can get it for you." That would be a week or so before I went to work.

(Q.) Are you aware that they had returned to the government all the time you worked there that you were getting \$2.50 per day. (A.) I don't know anything about it. I'm not supposed to know. At the conversation we talked over what we were going to fix up. They fixed up at \$2.50 per day. I had received \$2 per day as my wages and having discovered that Landers and others got \$2.50 per day I raised a disturbance with Stackhouse and Retallick and got my \$2.50 per day.

There's William Knight on that list; we got \$2.50 from the time Knight went on that work to the time we finished. The money was paid to me after all the bridge work was all wound up. I got between \$20 and \$25 extra. I think it was \$54 or \$56. I think that was the whole amount for both of us. It would be after the new year we got it. For anything before Knight began to work I got only the \$2. I worked about 90 days, I think.

(Q.) So far as you know were Stackhouse and Retallick acting for themselves or for the government? (A.) I do not know. I had nothing to do with that. My son was present at all these conversations.

To the commissioner—I have worked with lumber. The lumber taken out should come out and there's more there yet that should come out. I don't know what became of what was taken out.

To Dr. Stockton—There was some with good ends of 8 or 10 feet long in a thirty foot stick but they could not be used in the bridge.

To Mr. Stackhouse—I told you that I did not agree with Retallick to work for \$2 a day. Perhaps you said if Retallick promised me \$2.50 I should have it. I don't know. You seemed to be dumbfounded when I told you that Retallick had not hired me for \$2 a day.

ERNEST COLWELL was next sworn—I worked on the bridge. I suppose Retallick hired me. I worked with father. I got \$2 per day every Saturday night. When he paid that then I did not expect any more because I did not think there was any more given. I discovered afterwards that some of them got more. I was surprised and left in consequence. I don't know how and I had a visit from Stackhouse. I think that was just a few days after knocking off work. Up to that time I don't think I had seen Stackhouse or Retallick. I don't know any of them. I was not there when Stackhouse came at first. I was there in the evening when both Stackhouse and Retallick were there. I suppose I did say something about my work. I can not just remember what I said. I was a little annoyed. When I came in he had been talking to father and there was no use in my flying off the handle. They gave me \$2.50 from the time Wm. Knight came on. He was the first man who was paid \$2.50. I think. I won't say who got \$2.50 per day. I don't know why it was fixed from the time that Knight came on. I don't know how I came to think Mr. Knight was the first man paid \$2.50 per day. I suppose I thought so. I don't know. I thought so. I take back what I said about Knight being the first man to get \$2.50 per day. No one told me that Knight got \$2.50 per day. I don't know how I can tell you why Knight not coming on affected my wages. I don't know why I was to get \$2.50 per day from the time that Knight came on the bridge.

(Q.) Why was it that the time was fixed when Knight came on for you to get \$2.50 per day? (A.) I don't know. I remember Stackhouse saying we were to get our wages. The difference between \$2 and \$2.50 from the time Knight came on. I swear I don't know what effect Knight coming on had on my wages.

(Q.) Was it not stated in the conversation that they would give you and your father \$2.50 per day from the time Wm. Knight began to work as they said he was the first man to get \$2.50 per day? (A.) I don't know. The commissioner—Did they give as a reason that Knight was the first man to get \$2.50 per day. (A.) No, they didn't say so far as I know.

I did not have in my mind that Knight got \$2.50 per day. I had it in my mind this morning because they said from the time he came on they would give us \$2.50 per day. From the tenor of the conversation I was led to believe that Knight got \$2.50 per day; that is natural enough. They left that impression on my mind. Because he was getting \$2.50 per day I was to get the same. There was said. To the commissioner—I am speaking of my impressions only in that matter.

Levi Colwell, recalled—I saw either Stackhouse or Retallick after I knocked off work and before Stackhouse came to my place. Perhaps three or four days after I knocked off this happened. I talked with both of them. The conversation was about my time. There was no dispute about that. Nothing was said about my wages then. It was that night Stackhouse came in to see me. There was conversation between us about the wages out at the bridge. I did not keep my own time or keep record of my wages from week to week. They named the time Knight went on as an agreeable starting point. I knew Knight was getting \$2.50 per day. I was to get \$2.50 per day because others were getting it. They named Knight as getting \$2.50 per day.

James H. Pullen was called but not sworn.

Dr. Stockton asked the commissioner to direct Mr. Pullen to complete the official returns by giving the names of the men to whom wages were paid. Edward J. Neve, sworn—I am a carpenter, reside in Lancaster; worked on the Suspension bridge in 1892; was employed by Retallick; worked 108

days about. I got \$2 per day, nothing more; paid every week same as the rest. I did not sign any receipts or pay sheets. Did not know any one else was getting \$2.50.

To commissioner—Retallick when he hired me said he would give me \$2 a day. I was in there often when other men were there. There was nothing secret; that I swear. To Dr. Stockton—They had their own time book. They asked each man what his time was. Retallick was paymaster. He named the time but not the amount. One man would know another man's time, but not the amount.

John Crozier, sworn—I reside on Marsh street; am a carpenter; did not have a recommendation; did not need one. Was hired by Stackhouse for \$2 a day; did not know that anyone was setting any more.

William Gray, sworn—I reside at Paradise; am a carpenter; do not know of any other man of my name a carpenter in the city. I never worked on the Suspension bridge. If I were put down on the bridge as having worked, I know of no other carpenter of that name. I have lived in the city about 35 years.

James Marley, sworn—I reside in the city; was hired by Retallick. I worked at the bridge for a fortnight after the work began. I was not there to the last of it. Retallick's paymaster; he paid me. Dr. Stockton asked to have Messrs. Stackhouse and Retallick to be instructed to give full name of some witnesses who could not be found in the city. Retallick said he would adjourn to 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The afternoon session was a very interesting one, enlivened by humorous passages worthy of the mock court trial of Thursday night at the Opera house.

John A. Adams, carpenter, of Carleton, was first sworn. He did not work on the suspension bridge at all in 1892. Did not know any other J. Adams who was a carpenter. Believed there was a carpenter, J. Alston, in Carleton, but did not know he was a carpenter. J. Alston worked for him (Mr. Adams) now. Did not know any other J. Alston.

F. Rogers was next sworn. He was a carpenter and had worked on the bridge in 1892 from July till October. Mr. Retallick hired him and said he was paying \$2 a day. He first saw Mr. Rogers when he was working and was asked to call again. He went again and saw Mr. Stackhouse. Went a third time and saw Mr. Retallick. Was asked what wages he wanted. Retallick said he was paying \$2 a day. Offered witness \$2 a day. Said that was what was going. That was the highest wages going, at least so the witness understood. He worked a week before he was paid. Went to work early in July. He was paid \$2 per day. Did not know that anybody got more.

Things grew serious again when the next witness was called.

JAMES H. PULLEN was sworn and proved an interesting witness. I believe, said Dr. Stockton, that you were supervisor for the government on the painting of the suspension bridge in 1892?

Mr. Pullen replied that he did the work. His tender was accepted. Dr. Stockton elevated his eyebrows in surprise.

What's that? There was a tender, was there? We must have that tender produced.

The chief commissioner turned to Secretary Winslow and asked if he had the document.

The witness evidently surprised too. Was that done under tender? he asked. He apparently could not recall it.

Mr. Pullen was about to say something when Dr. Stockton sharply interrupted.

Do you say that that work was done by you under tender?

Mr. Pullen thought for a moment and the question was pressed for a direct answer. He said that he had offered to do the work for so much a day, the materials being furnished, and that was accepted. He sent the tender to Frederickton. Hon. Mr. Ryan, the chief commissioner, asked him to tender.

Dr. Stockton—It is very important that that document should be produced.

The witness, continuing, said he did not know that there were any tenders called for by public notice. He met Mr. Ryan on the bridge when it was being repaired and asked for his permission to tender and he did. He could not remember that he had received any written reply. Thought Mr. Ryan told him to go ahead. He submitted to the tender and he was accepted. He did not know for him on the bridge. There were no initials given and he said it would be impossible for him to give or get the initials of the men's names. Most of the men were away. He did not need the initials, because he never had two men of the same name working for him. They never signed a pay sheet.

Dr. Stockton—I shall have to call for your books and your pay roll.

The doctor added that he wanted the tender and also Mr. Ryan summoned. Secretary Winslow thought there was perhaps such a tender as Mr. Pullen spoke of, and Hon. Mr. Emmerson promised that it would be produced and Mr. Ryan summoned.

Dr. Stockton announced that he also wanted W. C. Rudman Allen summoned, with his books showing original entries of supplies for the bridge repairs.

To Hon. Mr. Emmerson Mr. Pullen said his custom was to charge so much per day for materials, and so much per pound for materials.

To Dr. Stockton—The lead used was Elephant brand, was not sure whether English or Canadian, but both were about the same price and quality. There was an English and Canadian article of the same brand.

Now, said Dr. Stockton, I want to know about the oil. I am an authority on (Lawyer).

used Baltic oil, an English brand. Didn't know much about the others. Elephant brand lead is worth about 8c. per pound. Did not know what firms in St. John kept it for sale. He did not charge for his own time of the bridge. Put a foreman there and charged \$3 a day for him. Charged \$2.50 per day for the other men. They were all journeymen painters, the best he could get. His duties were he paid any of them was \$1.50 per day, and paid the others \$1.00 per day per week. Drew \$2.50 from the government for each man.

To Hon. Mr. Emmerson he said \$2.50 per day for wages was his regular charge. What he paid his men was another thing. When he supplied materials, that was charged for besides the wages named. He had no account for years where he had done the work without also supplying the material.

Dr. Stockton said he could not go further with this witness till he saw that tender and any other tenders or documents which he had.

The commissioner said they would be produced.

Dr. Stockton complimented the commissioner on his fairness and also Secretary Winslow for his courtesy uniformly displayed by the latter at all times.

The Suspension bridge investigation was resumed Saturday morning, not very punctually at 10.45 a.m. John Murphy was the first witness. In the afternoon Richard Retallick was the first witness called. He said he was a carpenter. He and Mr. Stackhouse repaired the bridge. He entered upon the work in June, 1892. He kept the books. Was employed by Hon. Mr. Ryan. It was done in the Royal hotel and was in June, 1892, he thought. His duties were to go to repair the bridge, to remove all rotten wood that the engineer directed him to take out and to replace it with new. He was to receive \$3 a day for his work. He had no correspondence with the government. Pay sheets were made up every Saturday night. He hired some of the men and he did the painting.

Dr. Stockton called the attention of the witness to some of the sheets and read the names in them, the number of days worked, and the wages paid per day. The witness said he had no books or accounts. Kept no memoranda. He made up the pay sheets from Mr. Stackhouse's time book.

Witness's attention directed to pay sheet of June 11. Napier and Thompson were paid \$2.50 per day as appeared in the sheet. The pay sheet as well as all the others were forwarded to Frederickton to the board of works, addressed to P. B. Winslow. All these sheets were made up from Mr. Stackhouse's time book. Could not say where that was. Had not seen it lately. Stackhouse called the names of the men and the number of days worked and he made up the pay sheet. The pay sheets would go up to the capital a day or two after they were made up and cheques for the amount would be received from the department three or four days after they reached Frederickton.

Mr. Winslow told Dr. Stockton that he had these checks and he would produce them.

Witness—The checks came addressed to him in an envelope.

Dr. Stockton—Here is a pay sheet amounting to \$161.50. It is dated June 23rd. What about the wages paid this time.

Witness—They are as appears on the sheet.

Are you sure of that?

Witness—I am sure of that. How about McGarrigle? According to this sheet he got \$12.50 for five days' work.

Witness—I swear I paid him \$2.50. I paid him \$2 per day.

And charged the government \$2.50? Yes.

Here is J. Betts, who got \$12.50 for five days. How about that man?

Witness—I didn't pay him \$12.50. He was only paid at the rate of \$2 a day.

How about Crozier?

Witness—He got \$2.50 for five days. He got \$2. Some of the men got \$2.50 and some \$2. Don't know where Brown lives.

Dr. Stockton—Still it has been discussed so much in the legislature and in the press that your memory must have been refreshed.

Where did this man Goggin live? I don't know. I paid him \$2.50 per day.

What sort of a man was he in appearance? He was a man about 60 years old.

Dr. Stockton turned round in his chair and directed a man to stand up. Is that the man?

No. That is not the man. That man did not work on the bridge.

What did J. Goggin look like? He was between 50 and 60 years of age; was a tall man.

Dr. Stockton—All these men seem to have been advanced in years.

Goggin weighed about 175 pounds. Who was his mate on the bridge. The men seem to have worked in pairs.

I can't say who worked with him. They were changed off very much.

Mr. Retallick was stood aside for a moment and James Goggin sworn. He said: I reside in St. John. Do not know any man in the city of my name. I have lived here 30 years. I did not work on the bridge.

Mr. Retallick continued: I don't know where Goggin lived. His name appeared on the pay sheet of June 24. He was paid for four days work then?

Yes, he was, and he continued to work on the bridge almost till it was finished.

Mr. Stackhouse kept the time, did he?

Yes, he did, and I paid the men in accordance with his time book.

Yes, you say you paid Goggin \$10 for that week?

Yes, I did.

Here is Cobham. How about him? I paid him at the rate of \$2.

Brown?

I paid him.

There are then quite a number of men whom you paid \$2 per day for that week and for whom you charged \$2.50 per day.

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got the bill certified by Retallick. I think the timber was delivered before 11th August.

James Adam was called for a few minutes. Sworn, said: I live in Carleton; did not work at suspension bridge in 1892. Do not know of any other James Adam or James Adams in the city.

John Collins resumed: The receipts are dated August 11th. It was very soon after making arrangements with Retallick that I wrote to Halifax about the timber. I was a contractor directly with the government to supply the timber. The paper signed by Retallick is the contract. At the time the contract was made I had arrangements made for the purchase of that timber. I wrote to Halifax before I made the contract. After I made it I went to Halifax in less than a week after the contract. The timber was all picked before that. I telegraphed and made my arrangements with Retallick. I think I went at night and probably spent a night or two at the next morning. I think I went the day I made arrangements with Retallick.

Q.—Are you now prepared to say that the timber was delivered when you received the amount of these receipts? A.—When I drew that the timber was not delivered.

Q.—As a matter of fact the government advanced you the money to buy the lumber with? A.—I don't know that.

Q.—Did you buy it all the first time? A.—I bought all I wanted. I bought the whole quantity mentioned in the agreement of 8th August. I paid Cunard right then. I made a draft of \$800. Either William or Gilbert Pugsley drew the draft for \$800 for me. About the last of the delivery I drew the \$208.50. I signed two receipts in good faith, both on the same day, but there was only one draft drawn that day I think. I signed the receipts that day. I gave them to Gilbert Pugsley or William, probably Gilbert, Wm. Pugsley knew of this draft having been drawn. I think. I don't positively say that he knew, but I think so.

Q.—When you signed these receipts you acknowledged having got \$1,010.30. When did you get this money? A.—I got \$650 for them.

Q.—Then you did not get the money by \$360.30? A.—No, nor I did not deliver timber then up to that amount.

The amount of my first delivery was \$737 according to the bill of 23rd August. I think that is correct. All that timber mentioned as amounting to \$377 was delivered before I got the receipt from Retallick dated 23rd August.

The receipt of 20th October, 1892, is not in my writing. I never saw that bill before.

The receipt of 23rd August is not in my handwriting. There was a quarrel between Stackhouse, Retallick, Gilbert Pugsley and myself. The quarrel was about the funds for payment of timber, per the bill of Oct. 20th, 1892.

Q.—What was the quarrel about? A.—I made a draft of \$300. I'll tell you the whole thing. I'll let me and there'll be no hunker sliding about it. I couldn't get any money out of the railway. I saw Gilbert Pugsley and said to him to put \$500 in it and we would make a couple of hundred. I had talked with Retallick. He could not get the timber in Fisher's pond without taking sizes that would cause waste. I had talked with Wm. Pugsley before that and got a promise that I should supply the timber. I was bound I would not work without being paid for it. Gilbert Pugsley kept the \$360.30. I only got the \$650. When I was getting the second lot of timber we quarrelled about it. We had it in writing and I went as far as Sussex, but thinking it over I got off the train at Sussex and telegraphed Chief Commissioner Ryan and Stackhouse that I would not supply any more timber. I have had nothing more to do with it. I never got but \$650. The other draft I think was paid. I have heard so, but never got it. I never got a cent more than \$650. The bill of 20th October is for timber which I had picked out. I believe it is what I had bought from Cunard & Co. I told Retallick where he would find the timber and he went after it. In bringing over the timber I handed I had two cars with the weight of three thousand and I was to get \$45 a thousand delivered in St. John. I paid the freight on my own delivery. If there is a charge for freight in the public accounts it would not be mine. I paid about \$30 per car freight. The chief commissioner—There are two cars in our accounts, \$33 each.

I do not know anything about Stackhouse's charge of \$40 for going to Halifax. I paid my own freight. I do not know what they did. My expenses to Halifax for three days would be all according to the circumstances. I had to give a few dollars away to hurry things up. Ordinary expenses would be about half what was paid Stackhouse.

I hereby authorize John Collins to purchase for local government of New Brunswick 100 pieces pitch pine lumber for suspension bridge, to make as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description of lumber and Price. Includes items like 100 pieces 4 1/2 x 15 inches, 25 feet long, priced at \$1,600.00.

At \$45 ..... \$1,600.00 One half of said timber to be delivered on or before the 15th day of August and the balance on or before the 10th day of September ensuing. A. D. 1892. (Signed) R. RETALICK. Dated St. John, N. B., August 23, 1892. Shown two receipts, \$308.50 and \$300.50, both dated 11th August, 1892. The timber may have been delivered at that date. The bill might have been written out after the receipt. The timber had passed delivery before I



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