

had better work with us in the matter, and we will make it mutually beneficial." I said I would take an offer any time they came. I think it was in the beginning of April, or perhaps the latter part of March, when the announcement was made that tenders would be called for. I had a talk with him, and I then agreed to enter into a silent agreement by which, if I could get the contract, they should control it, and do whatever they deemed proper. We then put in our tenders. I think Mr. Roger put in mine. It was very hurried; my impression is that Mr. Roger made it out.

Q. What was the understanding?—It was this: that I had an undefined interest in it, to be settled upon a basis in proportion to the amount of the contract, they taking all the onus of looking after the contract, to see which one they could get. My arrangement was made before I tendered.

Q. And it was agreed, in point of fact, instead of tendering separately, you were tendering jointly?—Yes. The letting of contracts in this particular line has always been that no deposit was required till now. We found that in job printing they tendered at prices that no practical man could do the work at, and we thought better to join our figure and bring it up to a figure at which you could do the work, and Mr. Taylor, who had a contract before, broke down, although the Government gave him a large advance; we therefore made it higher so that we would not break down. My tender was under their control. I cannot say that agreement was kept secret. When the matter came before the Printing Committee several gentlemen advised me not to take the contract at my figures, that they were very low. I spoke to the Member for West Middlesex, and he strongly advised me to make other arrangements; and I wanted them to make some arrangement by which there would be a mutual basis upon which we would agree, and that I was going to try and have an interest with Roger & MacLean, either financially or in a portion of the work, and several parties knew it at the time.

Q. Afterwards you did withdraw?—Yes; I withdrew my tender prior to the Committee considering it, because the regulation was this: that if I was offered the contract and refused it that I might have the \$500 to pay.

Q. The Sub-Committee reported in the first place?—Yes; I withdrew.

Q. Did you know of the arrangement Roger and MacLean were going to make to get the others to withdraw?—No; I do not think I said a word to Mr. Boyle except "Good morning" all the time he was in Ottawa; I had no words with any of them; I think it was the evening before the Committee was to meet, Mr. Roger and MacLean came into my office, and then they asked me what I was prepared to do, and what interest I expected; I says, "Gentlemen, I have an understanding of that kind, and I will leave it to yourselves." I think I was excessive in my demands, and Mr. Rogers says, "If we give so much a year that ought to be fair," and he pressed the matter, and I said, "that will be satisfactory," and Mr. Roger explained as he had done previously, that he would rather have a dealing of that kind with me than increase the firm.

Q. You were entitled to an interest in this contract; you tendered in your own name and they tendered in theirs?—Yes.

Q. And when the tender was accepted, instead of taking you in as a partner they bought out your interest?—Yes; we arranged it on that basis.

Q. It is not true, as stated, that you tendered independently of them, as a bogus tender, and then sold out afterwards?—No; my impression is that it was made out by Roger, and we put the figures; my interest would have been very small had I taken it; there was no tender of mine that they could control.

Q. Did you know anything about Boyle?—I was rather anxious that Roger and MacLean should get as good a price for the work as possible, and asked Mr. Roger on one occasion what was being done about the contract. "Oh," he says, "Mr. Boyle is in the way; he won't do anything; he had never done a thing he would be ashamed of, and won't now." I think we laughed over it at the time, thinking Mr. Boyle was trying to get more, and we dropped the matter.