

Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Inquiry.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM, No. 49,

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 21st May, 1895.

The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts met,

Mr. J. M. COURTNEY, Deputy Minister of Finance, called, sworn and examined.

By Sir Richard Cartwright :

1. You are the Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance?—Yes.

2. And have been so for the last sixteen or seventeen years?—Yes.

3. I find here, Mr. Courtney, handed in from your department, a number of communications with the secretary treasurer of the Fredericton and St. Mary's Bridge Co., and also with the Auditor General. Do these contain all the papers of every kind in reference to the Fredericton Bridge in the department?—In the department, yes.

4. You have no other information of any kind?—No.

5. I observe that beginning in June, 1888, and going on to December, 1894, you appear to have addressed, pretty regularly every half-year, a request for interest to this company. I find also, if I understand these papers of yours, that no payment for interest ever appears to have been made except apparently what was stopped out of a \$30,000 bonus granted to the company?—I think there were \$3,000 paid.

6. That does not appear here?—And \$12,000 stopped.

Mr. FOSTER.—I think that \$3,000 appears in the papers.

The WITNESS.—The \$3,000 is there.

By Sir Richard Cartwright :

7. As far as I can see it is not?—At all events everything was paid up to the 30th June, 1889.

8. The only \$3,000 I can see is apparently \$3,000 which was stopped out of the \$30,000?—Oh, that was the first stoppage.

9. It does not appear from these papers. Looking at them, Mr. Courtney, as far as I can see, that anything at all was paid except what was stopped out of the \$30,000 bonus; that the company never paid a cent out of its own funds as far as these papers show. I perceive the \$3,000, but you will notice——?—That seems to have been stopped there.

10. Then as far as you are aware nothing was ever paid by the company?—I believe not.

11. Except what was stopped?—Except what was stopped.

12. Out of the \$30,000 bonus?—Yes.

By Mr. Davies :

13. How much was that altogether?—\$15,000.

14. How many years did that cover?—Up to the 30th June, 1889.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—That would be one year and a quarter.