

Murchie on Stand In The Afternoon

Again an Interesting Witness in the Currie Matter—Will Be Session in Fredericton

Campbellton, N. B., July 9.—More of interest developed in the Currie inquiry since the morning's report was filed. When the court resumed after the noon recess, Mr. Murchie continued his evidence. Under cross-examination by Mr. LeBlanc, witness could not give any idea of how many times he was over the scene of the Continental Company's operations. He went to some places as many as five times; to some places he might not have gone at all. He did not keep copies of his memoranda from which he prepared his monthly reports and so had no record.

He did not know how many monthly statements he had sent in; he had sent in one, but he would not swear that he had sent more than one. He had sent in statements at different times, but perhaps not more than one for the same area. They were supposed to send in an estimate in January; it might have been in February when he sent his. He must have sent in more than one monthly statement.

Q.—Were those statements correct?
A.—Correct to the work I had done.
Q.—Were they correct as to date?
A.—I could not tell about the places I had not visited.

Q.—Would you swear that you were in the woods before Christmas?
A.—Yes.
Q.—Would you give me a list of the jobs which were cutting then?
A.—I might have some papers that could show.

Q.—Can you produce papers that will give a full record of your work?
A.—No, they were all destroyed.
Q.—Then how were you able to swear that your returns were correct?
A.—I had a copy of the final returns.

Q.—Is this (a document produced by the witness) a copy of the correct or the false report?
A.—The correct report.
Q.—Has this been out of your possession?

A.—It has been around quite a bit since I prepared it.
Q.—Who had it?
A.—I could not swear who had it.
Q.—Where did you prepare this?
A.—I do not know.

Q.—Did you prepare it yourself?
A.—I cannot swear I did.
Q.—How did you prepare it?
A.—From the counter's book. The counter had two books; I had them to look at.

Regarding the statements alleged to be correct, the witness said he did not remember showing them to Stewart, Cullen, Montgomery or Richard. Different people might have seen them. He did not remember showing them to anyone. He did not prepare the affidavit from the statements in question. He sent away a copy of it to have the affidavit prepared.

Mr. Baxter objected to a question as to whom the statement had been sent. Commissioner's Query.

The commissioner: One minute the witness says he copied the affidavit from the statement and the next minute he says he copied the statement from the affidavit.

I would like to know where he got the figures for what he calls the correct statement.
Mr. LeBlanc—Is that a correct list of the names of the jobs?
Witness—There might have been some more that I never found.

Q.—Would you swear that these men all worked for the continental company?
A.—To the best of my knowledge from cruising the woods and the counter's reports.
Q.—Would you remember being in the woods more than once?
A.—I don't know how many times.

Q.—Were you ever at Pelkey's Camp?
A.—I don't remember.
In reply to Mr. LeBlanc the witness read the typewritten copy of his statement. He found that the name of Paul Delisle appeared when it should have been De Gau. This, he said, was merely a mistake on the part of the typist. Of the twenty-four jobs the witness remembered visiting the camps of six of them. He did not remember whom he saw at the camps.

Questioned about the location of several of the camps witness could not tell where they were.
Regarding Joseph Pelkey, one of those alleged to have been eliminated from the list of returns, the witness said he did not know him. He had him down because he had received the name from his counter. The name might be a mistake. He would not swear to it. He had sworn to it in his affidavit because of his counter's report. He could not tell from memory where Pelkey was operating. He had no personal knowledge that he was operating. He had inquired while on the river whose logs they were and was told they were Pelkey's.

Q.—Do you know as a fact that there was no Joseph Pelkey working for the continental company?
A.—No.
Q.—Do you swear that the affidavit is true?
A.—Yes.

Q.—But no such person worked for the company.
A.—I swore to the best of my knowledge.
Q.—You have tried to make trouble for Mr. Currie for several years?
A.—Not that I know of.

Were There Some Threats?
Q.—Did you ever tell anybody that you would land Currie if you had got to penitentiary or hang for it?
A.—I don't ever remember saying it.

Q.—Do you remember telling him you were running the election in Durham and needed some money?
A.—No.
Q.—Would you swear you did not say it?
A.—No.

Q.—Do you remember telling him that if he let you have some money you could let him off easily on the stumpage?
A.—No.
Q.—Would you swear you did not say it?
A.—I don't remember it.

Regarding the conversation with Mr. Currie on the train the witness could not say who started the conversation. They talked of the scale. Mr. Currie thought

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It should be about 4,500,000 feet. Witness had said that he had sent in estimates higher than that. He could not remember what the figures were. Witness had said he thought Mr. Currie had not used him fairly in putting a man on the mouth of the river to check his count. The man was John Kerr whom witness admitted was not a personal friend of his. Witness said this was to get information to be used against him. Kerr was to ascertain the exact amount by the Continental Company and witness told Mr. Currie that Kerr had reported him to the government. Witness accused Mr. Currie of putting Kerr on for this purpose.

Q.—If Mr. Currie wanted to defraud the government why should he put a man on the river to get the correct count for the government?
A.—I don't know why.
Q.—Were you sober that night?
A.—I would not say very. I don't know what you mean.
Q.—Were you sober the next day?
A.—I don't know. I guess so.
Q.—Did you ever tell Mr. Richards that Mr. Currie had put Kerr on the river to watch you?
A.—I don't remember.
Q.—What made you make the accusation?
A.—Oh, things people had said. Some of the drivers.

Regarding the notes and records the witness said he had them when he prepared his final estimate. He had destroyed them, he had not taken care of them. In his visit to Mr. Currie he showed Mr. Currie no statement and Mr. Currie showed him none. He did not want to send in a statement that was wrong. He wanted to satisfy Mr. Currie. Mr. Currie told witness the cut was about 4,500,000 feet. Witness said his estimates were a little higher. He did not tell Mr. Currie

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how much. Witness told Mr. Currie that he would make his returns about 4,500,000. Mr. Currie said that would be about right. Mr. Currie did not tell him how much they had cut. He merely said that 4,500,000 would be satisfactory to him.

Attention was drawn by Mr. LeBlanc to a direct contradiction in the evidence of the witness regarding his visit to Mr. McAllister's office. Witness said that he drove to the office, but could not remember whether anyone went with him.

The witness was allowed to stand aside.

Charles Purvis, sworn, testified that he was employed by the Continental Lumber Company and was familiar with their logging operations. Mr. Baxter asked the witness to produce his record of last season's cut.

Mr. LeBlanc objected to the production of the company's private records. Mr. Murchie never had examined these books or asked to see them. The charge was that Mr. Currie and Mr. Murchie had conspired to defraud the province, and it should not be necessary to drag in the company's books.

The commissioner took the stand that the charge was that stumpage had not been paid on lumber which had been cut and that if counsel knew of lumber cut but not accounted for it was competent for him to prove it.

The books were produced, and the witness compared the so called correct list presented by Murchie with his own records.

The lists differed widely. In some cases the records showed much greater quantities, and in some cases much less. Even the names were incorrect, and some appearing in Murchie's list could not be found in Purvis's records. On the other hand, Purvis had several accounts which Murchie had not reported.

The witness was asked to furnish a tabulated list of his records to be presented when the court resumes on Wednesday morning. Adjournment was made at 6 o'clock.

S. C. A. FIGURES.
The Soldiers' Field Comforts Association will discontinue its monthly meetings until the second Wednesday in September when the business of the association will again be taken up. The actual work will go on as usual. The association reports that during the month of May 1,277 pairs of socks were shipped and during June 1,710, making a total of 4,467 for the two months. In all 110 cases were shipped during the two months. Two of these cases were received from friends in Boston and contained sixty pairs of socks, 406 in all. The cases were among the goods shipped. Donations were received from the following societies: The Girls' Club, West St. John, the Alexandra circle, True Canadians, St. Stephen's, Commercial Men's Association, and from many individual friends. The figures are ones that the association is well proud of, and it is hoped that the next list of supplies shipped will show that the interest in the work is ever increasing.

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Extra Rubber Rings.....10c doz.
Pineapple Tea.....10c doz.
King Cole and Moore's Tea.....55c lb.
2 pkgs. Minute Tapioca for.....25c
3 cakes Infant's Delight Soap for.....25c
2 pkgs. MacLaren's Jelly Powder.....25c
2 lbs. Prunes.....25c
2 pkgs. Mincemint.....25c
2 pkgs. Seedless Raisins.....25c
2 tins Evaporated Milk.....25c
2 lbs. Mixed Raisins.....25c
2 bottles Tomato Catsup.....25c
3 bottles Worcestershire Sauce.....25c
3/4 lbs. Rolled Oats.....25c
2 tins Lipton's Cocoa.....25c
3 tins Baker's Cocoa.....25c
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Rising Star Stove Polish.....25c
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Pancake Flour.....15c pkgs.
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3/4 lbs. Rolled Oats.....25c
Perfect Seal Jars (pints).....\$1.10 doz.
Perfect Seal Jars (quarts).....\$1.20 doz.
Mason Jars (pints).....\$1.05 doz.
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Standard Peas.....15c tin
Sugar Corn.....20c tin
Large tin Tomatoes, 3.....22c tin
15c tin Libby's Beans.....2 for 25c
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