

The charge of John Lovell & Sons for the work, including translating, was \$1,577.30, leaving

A PROFIT OF \$4,139.20

to the Canadian Publishing Co. It would seem that, with a profit like this, that company could at least have afforded to pay the freight and get the work back to the city; but he supposed they (or he, for he believed that Hon. Mr. LaRiviere was the company) concluded that the margin was so small that the Province could better afford to do so than they could.

The total steal, as the Premier called it, was as follows: Total cost to the Province, \$13,723.72; actual cost of the work, \$8,208.08, \$4,000 of which was paid by the Canadian Publishing Co., and the balance by the Times Printing Co. The report printed in English in 1882 was contracted for by the government direct, so that in this there was no steal. The English and French reports for 1883 were the ones supposed to have been let to the two local companies mentioned, the profits on the actual cost of these amounted to \$7,457.64; that is if they had to pay to John Lovell & Sons the balance which the government was now asked to pay, and which he was satisfied from the correspondence they would have to pay \$465.70. The order was given by the Queen's printer to John Lovell & Sons, and the correspondence of that firm was with the department of agriculture. He found that they charged for 250 copies of the French report more than the province received; 250 copies were billed to the government, and sent to St. Boniface to be put into the Statutes, and never returned; so that the government never received any of the 1,500 copies though 500 copies were bound and received. He found that the item for freight in bringing these reports here went through the auditor's books as "freight on reports of the Agriculture, Statistics and Health department," the report of the public accounts committee laid before the House contained a similar entry; but when it was got ready for the printer, and before it was printed, it was shown to the late provincial treasurer (the minister of agriculture, statistics and health having moved to that office in the interim); and he saw fit to change this particular item to "freight on books." He (Hon. Mr. Jones) had no doubt the change was made so the item would not be understood; and so that it would be paid without being found out.

THE CORRESPONDENCE

In connection with this showed that the contract, in so far as John Lovell & Sons were concerned, was given to them direct by the Government. The first letter, dated Sept. 24th, 1884, and signed by Gideon Bourdeau, Queen's Printer, and addressed to Messrs. Lovell & Son, Montreal, was as follows:—

"I beg to inform you that I have forwarded to you this day, per Dominion

Express Coy., the copy for the report of the Department of Agriculture, Statistics & Health, for 1883, together with maps and cuts for same. I enclose copy of instructions received from the Deputy Minister as to the general setting up of the report; and a copy of the report for 1882, mentioned in instructions, will be forwarded to you by to-night's mail from the department. Please see that the proofs are sent regularly as per enclosed instructions."

On Oct. 24th, 1884, a telegram was sent to John Lovell & Sons signed "A. A. C. LaRiviere" (not his official signature), "Get report eighty-three translated into French; 750 copies report in English, additional, will be required for journals. Have written."

On the same date Mr. LaRiviere wrote a letter, which began as follows: "On receipt of your telegram to-day stating that you could get the report of this Department for 1883 translated into French at the rate of seventy-five cents per page, I wired you to have the work done. The French edition is to consist of 500 copies." The letter was signed "A. A. C. LaRiviere," in his own writing; the words "in this department" were to be noted.

On November 13th, 1884, Mr. LaRiviere wrote: "I have expressed to you to-day the French manuscript of the report of the department for 1882, of which 500 copies only are to be printed." The remainder of the letter gave directions as to the style of printing, &c., and continued, "You will send the final revised proofs here for examination." Another sentence was, "You are sending the proofs of the English report for 1883 very slowly. I find that only about 50 pages have as yet come to hand. Please push along all you can."

On November 17th, 1884, a letter went, written on official paper of the department, and signed, "Acton Burrows, Deputy Minister." It was dated, "The Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Health, Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 17th, 1884." It gave directions regarding the printing of the covers.

Various other telegrams and letters were read by Hon. Mr. Jones, establishing that the work was contracted for by the Minister of Agriculture, Statistics and Health in his official capacity, while pretending to give the work to local companies whose profits were over \$7,000, while, had the Minister done his duty and given the work to John Lovell & Sons, it would have actually cost the province \$4,465.

Mr. Leacock asked if the documents produced were the originals. Hon. Mr. Martin crossed the floor of the House to show them to the member, while Mr. Jones went on to state that in tracing the matter he had had to ask for the official correspondence.

REDUCTIONS IN COST OF LEGISLATION.

The total cost of legislation in 1885-6