

the yards to see Papineau, to get the consent of Papineau, he got the consent of Champagne, and Mr. Lanctot that day left Sorel, and was not back for several weeks, and was there for only a little time in the summer; Champagne and Pagé were the men exclusively and solely responsible for the sending of the employees and the providing of the paint.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am merely asking for information. Might I be permitted one more question? Did the officials understand it in the same way as Mr. Lanctot?

Mr. GERMAN. Does my hon. friend mean Champagne and Pagé?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I mean the men who made this arrangement—did they understand it in the same way that Mr. Lanctot understood it, according to my hon. friend's apprehension?

Mr. GERMAN. As to how the men understood it there is no evidence at all.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Not the men, but the managers, the foremen.

Mr. GERMAN. Champagne and Pagé understood it just as Mr. Lanctot understood it. They understood that the time of the men was to be kept and that Mr. Lanctot was to pay the men when the work was completed. Mr. Champagne, of course, understood that these men were being paid at that time by the government, but outside of Mr. Champagne there was no other official of the government who knew how the men were being paid. Mr. Pagé did not know; he kept the time and returned it to Mr. Champagne as being time for work done on Mr. Lanctot's house. Mr. Champagne, instead of sending in these accounts day by day or week by week to Mr. Lanctot, and having Mr. Lanctot pay the accounts, sent in the time to the government, and had it paid by the government, as if those men were doing ordinary government work, and kept it against Mr. Lanctot, and Mr. Lanctot paid it at the end.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The reason I asked was this: If the officials understood it in the same way Mr. Lanctot understood it, according to my hon. friend's view, I do not see why the government had anything to do with paying the men at all.

Mr. GERMAN. Mr. Champagne explains that in his evidence where he says that he did not want to pay the men himself, as they might think that he was getting more money than they were getting, and so he sent in the bill to the department, and the men were paid by the department. As to the propriety of Mr. Champagne doing that, I have nothing to say, and I do not know that this House, on this particular question at this time, has anything to say; that

will be for the minister to ascertain later on. But at any rate, Mr. Lanctot knew nothing about that. Mr. Champagne knew the men were being paid by the government; he explains why he was doing it that way and claims that he believes he was acting properly. Whether he was or not is another matter, but Mr. Lanctot knew nothing about it, and Mr. Pagé knew nothing about it.

Mr. TALYOR (Leeds). Lanctot knew he was not paying the men.

Mr. GERMAN. Lanctot knew the account was being kept and that the account would be rendered to him as soon as the work was completed, and that was done, and the money was paid by Lanctot, as soon as the work was completed. There was some evidence as to the men being instructed to carry paint in a roundabout way from the shipyards to Mr. Lanctot's house so as to avoid being seen by the merchants in Sorel, and by Mr. Papineau, the director, but that is a class of evidence that did not impress me, and I do not think it impressed the committee, as being of any great weight, if any weight at all, because it is absurd to suppose that these men would receive instructions to avoid Mr. Papineau when it is known that Mr. Papineau lived within a few feet of Mr. Lanctot's house, and directly on the same street. The whole evidence, Mr. Speaker, is divulged in what I have stated. There are two or three men down on exhibit No. 2 as having done some day work—it seemed that Mr. Lanctot wanted a large telephone pole which was in front of his house and which was an incumbrance, removed, and the superintendent of the Bell Telephone Company said he could not get any men, but that if Mr. Lanctot would supply the men he would have the pole removed; which clearly demonstrates that even day labourers were not very easy to get in Sorel at that time. Mr. Lanctot had two or three men from the government yards help remove the pole, and their pay for a day and a half was paid by him. There is no doubt, and there is no dispute of the fact, that outside of Alfred Douaire and Louis Paul every man who worked on Lanctot's house was paid in full. As to that there can be no dispute. The only two men as to whom there is a suggestion that there was not complete payment is Alfred Douaire and Louis Paul, and I have stated what the evidence is in regard to these two. The rest of the account is correct and will be admitted by every member of the committee. Now, was all the paint that was taken from the government yards and used on Mr. Lanctot's house carefully and accurately returned?

Mr. PORTER. What about the paint that was spoiled and not used?