

the misfortune to lose a valuable each recently. (Wednesday 20th) Mr. Sam-Morton led to the altar Miss McConnell of Regina. We regret your correspondent is unable to in any particulars in regard to happy event. But the contracting is well known throughout district. Mr. Morton comes from county of Hastings, Ont., where left the old home to build a home himself on the beautiful plains of tern Canada. And we are pleas- to state that his efforts have been with success. Today Mr. ton is one of the most highly es- and prosperous farmers in the ty of South Regina. Miss Mc- nell is a daughter of Mr. and John McConnell of Billing's ge, Ont., and is well and favor- known in the district, having ed here for a time with her bro- W. R. McConnell. The popular young couple will take their residence in Camden, carry- with them the best wishes of r numerous friends.

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Discussion on the Improvident and Profligate School Book Contract.

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Calder—Merely with regard to the subject matter.

Mr. Haultain—They would have been improved in all particulars simply on the mere request of the hon. gentleman, I have no doubt.

I have the evidence of Morang's mechanical man, who says that the cost to make the old Ontario readers, which of course are of very inferior make up, of bringing these up to the same state of efficiency of the Morang set, in respect to mechanical make up and in other respects, would be one-third of a cent per volume, and, as this man said, you must recollect that one-third of a cent means a great deal when the whole cost of the book is not very large.

It cost 50 per cent. more for this order of Morang-books than it would have cost for a similar order of the Canada Publishing Company's books after they had been revised and after they had been put into proper shape. I do not accept the hon. gentleman's statements because he showed us on Friday that he holds a brief. He was not arguing to the point as the responsible minister, holding the scales between the contractor and the people, he came down to the house holding a brief for Morang and against the Canada Publishing Company. His prejudice was perfectly explained and we understand it perfectly.

The Morang books cost \$1.75 and the Canada Publishing Company's books cost \$1.15. These are retail prices. There is very good room for a reduction there and still leave a balance of profits. Take the prices to the commissioner for the individual books and the small orders of the school boards, for the policy seems to be that the school boards can buy these books. The school board would get a set of books from the Canada Publishing Company for 70 cents and they would get the same set from Morang for \$1.29. That is the difference per set. Anyone can calculate the percentage and even in these small figures see the enormous proportion. One cent deducted from five makes a very large proportion although it is only one cent.

Then take Morang's prices to school boards in order of less than \$500. I have taken a small calculation which will suit the case. The school district purchasing ten primers, six first, six seconds and six thirds, and four fourths would pay \$7.72 for the books. That is the amount that would have to be paid for Morang's books, and for the Canada Publishing Company's books the amount would be \$4.50 for the same quantity. Anyone can calculate the percentage. That is the sort of order which is likely to be made and that is where money is going to be saved. Anyone can take these figures and see the difference, and I wish to again emphasize the fact that the Canada Publishing Company's figures are not for these books which have been laid upon the table, which the hon. gentleman says are inferior.

Mr. Langley—Have you examined them? Mr. Haultain—The mere fact that the hon. gentleman has examined them does not indicate anything. We have to recollect this: It was a term of the tenders and contract that the books would be revised and improved. It would be done under the contract and at a fixed price. They were bound by the terms of the tender to enter into a contract to supply any particular book brought down and with such alteration as was required. So it is the finished article upon which the comparison should be made, not the unfair comparison between the Morang book and the old Ontario readers, not the equally unfair comparison between these books and the unfinished books which were submitted.

Now, then, I would like to point to this fact: that this contract was made on entirely different figures from Morang's first figures. Morang came down with tenders for certain books which would have been revised to the present standard according to the agreement. They would also have to be improved in mechanical make up. What did he offer? His retail price under the contract is \$1.75 and in the original tender it was \$1.60. That is only a matter of 15 cents, but it is quite a large proportion in things of that sort, especially when the hon. gentleman is figuring down the profits to within one or two per cent. Was that a provident contract, or was I justified in saying it was profligate and was made for an improper reason?

Now, we will take some of the prices. The Morang books, at the very most reasonable statement of cost, cost per set, 76.88. And the hon. gentleman, in a rather aggressive way for him, challenged anyone to question these figures. I question them. Who prepared these figures? Morang himself, and they are a rank fabrication and absolutely unfounded. The hon. gentleman got the cost of the manufacture and then proceeded to cut down the percentage of profit. Of course, if the hon. gentleman was doing the profits, Morang would be quite prepared to furnish him with an estimate of the cost. Did the hon. gentleman satisfy himself with expert evidence on this point?

Mr. Scott—These figures are part of

the tenders. They are competitive figures.

Mr. Haultain—Tenders, what tenders? This is something new. What tenders? Mr. Scott—The tenders which came in from the Canada Publishing Company and from others.

Mr. Haultain—I am not talking about tenders at all, I am talking about the cost price of Morang's books. How can these figures have been submitted when the books were taken and locked into shape and put in at a different price. I am speaking of the cost price of this set of readers.

Mr. Scott—As I understand it, these figures were submitted as a part of the tender and represented the cost of the book submitted with the tender. It seems to me this is complete justification for the cost price. They would make the prices just as low as they could safely go.

Mr. Haultain—The hon. gentleman seems to think there was competition between these people, as each of the eight submitted figures of the cost of their work. That was not open competition. It did not enter into the consideration of the tenders. What has the statement of Morang as to cost, made last February, got to do with the statement of the cost of production of an entirely new set of books?

Mr. Calder—If you remember on Friday last I stated the actual cost price of each book submitted in the Morang tender. Since that time the books have been revised, 120 pages have been added and alterations were made which would change the first cost of these some three or four cents.

Mr. Haultain—I still say that the prices as mentioned by the hon. gentleman and as I have named them, are the cost of production of the books which are in the contract. Are they not?

Mr. Calder—Yes. Mr. Haultain—That is what I thought Mr. Speaker. It seems to have taken the last quarter of an hour, with the assistance of the premier and the minister of education to discover the important fact which I stated at the time and which everyone will understand.

Mr. Scott—They were competitive figures. Mr. Haultain—No, I would suggest to the commissioner of education that he establish a kindergarten out in the speaker's room and explain this matter to his colleagues. Now I have some figures which, from my point of view, are very interesting.

The Ontario text-book commission took expert opinion on the cost of production of the old set of Ontario readers, and took five opinions, among them Mr. Grantham Morang's expert on manufacture. These five experts came to a conclusion and their opinions average from 40 to 40 cents for the set. Of course that is for the Ontario readers which are vastly inferior, but those are not the readers which we were asked to take. The commission further discovered that for an additional six cents to that cost, an absolutely good set could be procured, both as to contents and mechanical make up. A book equally as good as Morang's could, according to the opinion of Morang's own men, be procured for 53 cents cost to manufacture. Now, I do not want to hold down to such close figures as that. Suppose we allow him 20 per cent. more, and to the ordinary business man this would be a very considerable amount to add. We will say it will be 61 cents. We can get an absolutely modern set of readers of the same class as those already secured for 61 cents, as against 78.88 cents. This would mean a saving of 25 per cent., and of 30 per cent. over the amount which Morang himself said we could procure the books for. I can quite understand why his figures were taken by the commissioner as a basis for his conclusions. I have no doubt that Morang supplied them, but they were not supplied in connection. I say again, did the hon. gentleman get any assistance?

Mr. Calder—These figures came in the tenders. Mr. Haultain—That is the later price. Mr. Calder—They were figured out after long consideration of the books. Mr. Haultain—With whom? Mr. Calder—With the Morang people. Mr. Haultain—Of course, Mr. Speaker, there are more figures which I should like to deal with, and that is Morang's price and his evidence before the commission. The primer, according to Morang's own man can be absolutely brought up to date in every respect and cost six cents. That is the sworn figure. Morang's modern reader book two is 294 pages, eight illustrations and colors, a very similar book to the second book we are getting. This book has about 86 selections and Morang's second book has 85, and 75 of the selections are in the two. That means that 10 of the old ones are changed. The paper is of the very best sort.

Mr. Calder—The binding and printing are both different. Mr. Haultain—I say they are just as good. The cost price of this book is 121.3 cents as against 143.7 cents, which are the figures given by the hon. gentleman for this new book. They are made by the same people and under the same conditions and the one is sworn testimony while the other is only Morang's word. The book sells in Ontario for 25 cents and Morang's price to us is 35 cents.

The Canada Publishing Company's primer, which is laid on the table is a more expensive book than the Morang primer given under the contract. I make that statement. The hon. gentleman will contradict. It probably, it would cost nearly twice as much to produce the book. It has more colors and colors cost a great deal. The Morang book has half tones.

Mr. Calder—The hon. gentleman is mistaken, he has never looked into the book. The book contains three color work. Mr. Haultain—Some three color work. The Canada Publishing Company's book costs more to make and sells for 20 cents. The Morang book sells for 10 cents, making 50 per cent. allowed for the sacred name of friendship.

Then compare some of the other books, books with colors and maps, etc. Here Mr. Grantham says again— Mr. Calder—Mr. Grantham has not been with Morang for over a year. Mr. Haultain—The hon. gentleman is probably more acquainted with Morang's business than I am, but he was with Morang at the time he gave the evidence in 1905. Will the hon. gentleman deny that? The high school readers, 512 pages, which we assume would be as expensive as our third and fourth books, cost 19.70 cents. The American History, 454 pages, and Home Surroundings, three colors, 21 cents. These are all of modern make up and of mechanical completeness, and will last say four times as long as the books we are getting although costing the same.

(Continuation of Mr. Haultain's Speech) Take the case of public school books. In the report of the Ontario commission, there is a list of 18 books used in public schools, most of which should be more expensive than the reader, and the average cost of the 18 is 134 cents for manufacture. The average cost of the five Morang readers, less expensive books, more generally in use three or four times, is 16.39 cents.

The hon. gentleman made a good deal about freight rates. Gage's tender was to pay the freight here, and the Canada Publishing Company would have been obliged to pay the freight here. So there is no advantage there through the Morang contract. Mr. Haultain—The joint committee recommended Gage's first reader, it had 100 pages while the first reader of the new authorized series had 144 pages, and the Gage price is 17 cents in orders over 500 books, and Morang's is 40 cents under the government contract. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the figures I have quoted show that the contention of the commissioner that Morang has given a fair price, is without foundation. Morang is being given a price, which, according to the expert testimony, is unreasonable. He is given figures which will allow of enormous profits, and he secured the figures under a contract which was not made under circumstances creditable or proper.

Now what was the position when the joint committee finished its labors? The work, so far as the text books were concerned, was practically done, but 10 or 12 months were wasted in order to allow Mr. Morang a chance to get his work done and to comply with the conditions of the contract. This contract is wrong again in that there is no provision for the work done in Canada. They could have made provision for the work being done in the province before the end of the contract. And yet we find the work is going to be practically a foreign corporation, with no restriction as to where the work is to be done. There is not a single word that the work is to be done even in the Dominion. The books are being sent to be printed in the States. The hon. gentleman laid himself out to give us carefully-calculated prices, but he got freight rates from New York. Why did he want rates from New York? Because that is the headquarters of the great concern. The contract might just as well never have really been given to the Morang Company. It was formally signed by Morang, but the books will be completed in New York, there is a good reason to believe, for foreign capital, in the American Book Company, the most corrupt corporation on the continent, a corporation which has been associated with all sorts of frauds in connection with text books in most of the cities of the States.

What sort of a contract is that to be made by a government of a Canadian province, even if our patriotism is not provincial, the advantage might have been given at least to Canada. But Morang must get the contract. Morang must be rewarded for that book publishing knight-errantry and incidentally believe must be made to friendship. I believe for this very circumstance the contract is improper and improvident, it is a profligate contract as well.

This contract is made for 10 years, and the Ontario commission recommended five years. Mr. Saul's evidence before the commission is rather against the 10 year contract, but of course it is a very different thing when you are working for a contract.

So I say from the very beginning there has been something wrong. They were wrong because of their methods in not keeping faith with the people with whom they were dealing, men who had a right to have faith kept with them. That was dealing which was unworthy of any government. We should at least be able to look for fair dealing on the part of the government.

We have a contract that has violated

This was an improper contract and a profligate contract because a set of books were secured to the people of the province at a price which is at least 40 per cent. higher than an equally good set of books could be procured for, as shown by the evidence before the Ontario Text Book Commission, which I have quoted.

The prices are high, and why? The only reason is that away back in May, the minister took a memorable trip to Edmonton to see Mr. Rutherford, and rumor has it that the only book representative in Calgary at the time was Mr. Saul.

Mr. Calder—I don't think he was with in 600 miles at the time. Mr. Haultain—He was in Edmonton, according to my information. Mr. Calder—You have a great deal of information that is not reliable. My information is as reliable as the figures given by Morang. Take the fact of Morang's absolute disregard of the call for tenders, and Saul's reported statement that he was going to get the contract anyway.

Mr. Calder—When did he make that statement? Mr. Haultain—It may have been in a moment of exasperation. I am not prepared to tell the hon. gentleman where he made it. It was at any rate reported on good authority to have been made before this contract was given, and this much is certain, the books which were adopted were the Morang books. The hon. gentleman said Mr. Morang must have all the books, and more than that they must have it at their own price.

Mr. Calder—The committee did not make any recommendations. Mr. Haultain—I do not wish to quibble over the meaning of "recommendation." It was an opinion. The hon. gentleman knows very well what I mean. The committee's opinion was to the effect of what I have stated. Taking all this, taking these figures, and they are extravagant figures, the hon. gentleman said he was going to fly to the relief of an overburdened population and has bound us to pay tribute for years to this grasping publishing house, to the Morang Company and to Mr. Saul.

The prices are extravagant and exorbitant. Take their own figures and the Morang will be making from 30 to 40 to 50 per cent. and Morang's own statement on oath before the Ontario commission, says that 10 per cent. is reasonable profit upon which a publisher can do business. All the cost figures which he has given have been given with a view to increasing the profits, and I do not believe that they are correct.

Mr. Scott—The fact remains that they are competitive figures. Mr. Haultain—How can they be competitive for production? They were entirely different articles. That is a new kind of competition. The hon. gentleman is referring to a sense which cannot possibly be borne by the words. Mr. Scott—What do tenders mean? Mr. Haultain—I shall be very glad to constitute myself a dictionary for the hon. gentleman after the debate is over. Why I should have to explain to him the meaning of different very plain English words which have not anything to do with the debate, I cannot see. We all know what "tenders" and "competition" mean.

Mr. Scott—Of course we do, and these prices which were submitted, were submitted by way of tender and by way of competition. Mr. Haultain—They were not submitted by way of tender and by way of competition. Throughout the consideration of these figures there has been an evident bias. The hon. gentleman's speech on Friday showed his bias against the Canada Publishing Company. What has the Canada Publishing Company ever done to the hon. gentleman? Take the circumstances of the improper dealing with the tenders.

Mr. Scott—There were tenders then? Mr. Haultain—Of course there were tenders. The hon. gentleman's interruptions are well, that would not be a parliamentary expression. But the hon. gentleman does interrupt. I should like if I may be allowed for the next three or four minutes to finish a sentence without any remarks being made about something I am not speaking about at all.

Take the whole history of this transaction from the beginning. Tenders were called and many publishing houses took part at a great amount of expense to each. Then take the cavalier manner in which they were told to step to one side. There are the very peculiar circumstances under which the contract was made with Morang. There was no arrangement, but the commissioner says there was a deliberate intention on the part of the commissioner to give Morang the contract. His books were undertaken by some committee and put into shape for the purpose of being submitted under the contract. Take the particulars of the contract itself. The fact that it is made with people who are having the work done in the United States; take the cost to the country, and if the Canada Publishing Company's tender had been accepted we would have saved the whole cost of the first issue of books. They were equally good books at a very much less price and under terms which would have saved to the province the initial cost of probably \$15,000.

We have a contract that has violated

all these principles, a contract founded on such a history as that. A contract which was evidently brought about by bias and on the line of personal friendship. Is that not a profligate and improper contract? The province is to be put under contribution to Morang for 10 years at prices which for exorbitance exceed the prices which the hon. gentleman attacked so strongly throughout his speech when dealing with old conditions.

I think, sir, that I have made my case good and that the hon. gentleman has made an improvident contract without any business reason. The conclusion is plain that the hon. gentleman was biased in favor of Morang and was biased by reason of his friendship for Mr. Saul. I happen to know Mr. Saul and in the popular language he is a very decent fellow, but because he is a very decent fellow is no reason why we should give him the opportunity to get something out of the people of the province for the next ten years. There is only one conclusion we can draw, and that is that the contract was made for that purpose and it is certainly going to have that effect.

The debate was continued in the evening when Mr. Turgeon replied to Mr. Haultain. In dealing with the question of free distribution he could not see that they should be insularly because of that fact. As to the demand for free text books from the people he claimed that it was beyond the comprehension of Mr. Haultain how a government should introduce anything the people did not ask for.

It was perhaps the traditions of the Tory party not to do anything for the benefit of the people unless it was dragged from them.

The leader of the opposition opposed every measure this government introduced for the broadening and extending education.

Mr. Turgeon's long speech brought out nothing important that Mr. Calder had not referred to in the contract.

Dr. Elliott, Mr. Langley, Mr. Wylie, Dr. Neeley, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Sutherland also spoke.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19. Quiet reigned in the House today after the debate of the previous days.

Dr. Elliott in moving for a return for information regarding bridges in the Qu'Appelle Valley, referred to the action of the Leader newspaper characterized its utterances as unfair.

Mr. Scott, in moving the second reading of the redistribution bill referred to the remarks of the opposition during the debate on the address in reply to the speech, when the redistribution made at Ottawa was characterized as an outrageous gerrymander. He claimed that the lines of the divisions as laid down by the Haultain redistribution in 1902 were followed as closely as possible, and that if the Ottawa government had gerrymandered the country in 1905, then the Haultain government had been equally guilty in 1902.

Mr. Haultain said that the conditions were different in 1902, when there was no opposition, but in 1905 there was a change in the political situation, and there were two parties in the province. The decision had been reached by the Ottawa authorities to have a change and the redistribution bill was made so as to best suit their ends after the change.

Mr. Scott said he would give his word that when the redistribution bill was put through at Ottawa it had never entered his mind that he should be called upon to lead the Liberal party in this province.

Mr. Haultain did not wish to say that the mere fact that the honorable gentleman was transported into local politics was the first move in the game. He had no doubt of that long before it was decided to have a change. The redistribution bill of 1902 was brought down without the suggestion of a gerrymander in order to meet the claims of the northern part of the province which was fairly clamorous then for most things of the province was taken as a pivot point for the redistribution, and the representation. Consideration was given to the large areas unpopulated, but which might later on be filled up, and it was distinctly understood that the northern conditions must change very much before that portion of the provinces share in any increased representation which it might be decided should be given.

In 1905 there had been many changes in population in the south of the province. In the three years a very much larger proportion of the population had gone into the south than into the north, and I think I am perfectly right in saying that there was an outrageous gerrymander. However, I think that a very great mistake made at that time was that the House was not given a greatly increased number of votes. For instance, South Qu'Appelle had more votes than two or three of the northern constituencies and it was very much behind them in area, when you leave out the frozen north divisions where there was nobody but ghosts at the time. I say, however, that I am prepared to dispossess myself of any prejudices I may have and of what I imagine should be the policy of the government. Although I think the government should state its policy, for it will have to take the responsibility in the end, I am prepared to meet them half way and render any assistance to establish

ish a fair basis of representation for this province in the work of committees. The House might have been taken into the confidence of the government, for I suppose it will have a proposition to make to the committee.

The second reading of the bill was passed, and the following members appointed a committee to deal with the measure: Messrs. Haultain, Gillis, Scott, Ens and Sheppard.

The rest of the day was spent in committee on the Saskatchewan By-laws Bill, Free Text Books Bill and Local Improvement Amendment Bill.

On the Text Books Bill the government agreed to a provision requiring the school boards to keep separate accounts of the cost of books and supplies furnished under the bill, and also one requiring the commissioner of education to lay before the House any future contracts which might be entered into.

At the evening session committee work was again taken up. On the local improvement amendment bill the subject of weed inspectors came in for discussion. The different districts may appoint inspectors and so may the government. In each case the remuneration is to be furnished by the authorities appointing.

THURSDAY, MAY 14. Dr. Neeley presented a petition for the incorporation of the village of Watson, and Mr. Stewart one from C. Edmunds and others asking for amendments to the Liquor License Ordinance.

Mr. Langley gave notice of a bill respecting the veterinary profession. Mr. Wylie gave notice of the following motion: "That in the opinion of this House the Wolf Bounty Act does not make sufficient provision in the shape of bounty to encourage systematic and effective efforts to prevent the large amount of damage to live stock in several parts of the province caused by timber wolves."

The bill to amend the Public Libraries Act and the bill respecting Public Printing were laid a third time and passed.

The following bills passed the committee stage, and were set down for third readings: Department of Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones; Municipal Telephone Systems, Consolidation of the Statutes of Saskatchewan, City of Moose Jaw Deputations, Fathers of La Salette Incorporation.

The Lieutenant Governor made his first appearance in the House this session and gave his assent to the bill to validate certain bylaws of the city of Saskatoon.

FRIDAY, MAY 15. Among the returns laid on the table today was one referring to the printing contracts. The following payments were made: Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 1905, Leader Times Co. (N.W.T. Contract) \$1,294.15.

Year 1906-7, Leader Times Co. (N.W.T. Contract), \$11,954.99. Leader Publishing Co. (Provincial Contract Jan. 1, 1906) \$4,495.97. Year 1907-8, Leader Publishing Co. \$33,628.71.

Saskatchewan Courier (German pullet), including \$4 for posters, \$186.80. Canada N. W. Publishing Co. (Guelphian Supplementary Revenue Bulletin, including \$60 advertising, \$245.

Bills respecting the department of Railways and Telegraphs, Municipal Telephone Systems and the consolidation of the statutes were read a third time and passed.

Mr. Calder moved the third reading of the Free Text Books Bill. Mr. Haultain moved in amendment that the bill be referred back to the committee of the whole for amendment to the clause which deals with contracts. In doing this he stated that the prices were exorbitant and that the contract was improperly entered into.

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