

Q. Was he there all the time?—A. Yes, he was—well of course in office hours.

Q. He was not filling that office, he was not Superintendent of Stationery all the time during which he was in the Printing Bureau, but during all the time you were in the Printing Bureau he was employed there?—A. Yes.

Q. Now what time did he come in?—A. I think he came in '85 or '86.

Q. Or earlier?—A. Yes.

Q. At all events he was there during the whole time you were there?—A. Exactly, yes.

Q. At what time was he appointed Superintendent of Stationery?—A. In 1899.

Q. And he continued down to last year?—A. Yes.

Q. He was Superintendent of Stationery during the time Dr. Dawson was King's Printed?—A. Yes.

Q. And during the earlier years of Mr. Parmelee's occupancy of that office?—A. Yes.

Q. What sort of an officer was he?—A. Well, he was a gentleman and a very good man, good for everybody, nobody could find fault with him.

Q. What was the reputation in which he was held in the department and in the Bureau generally?—A. He was evidently an honest man.

Q. And when did you first learn anything that impaired your idea of his reputation?—A. Well, recently, not until the inquiry.

Q. Well, did this over-stocking that you noticed lead you to suspect anything wrong with Mr. Gouldthrite?—A. No, I saw nothing.

Q. Why not?—A. Well, as I said before, I spoke to him several times and he always gave me some good explanation, at least it appeared to me to be good. He said, we are called upon to supply large requisitions, especially to the Intercolonial Railway, which asks for 100 boxes of carbon paper at a time, and he said, we must be in a position to supply them at once and in order to do that we must have a large stock, the same with ribbons, there are so many brands, so many colours and so many machines in the service that we must have a large stock on hand. The explanation he gave me was that he needed a large stock in order that he might be ready to supply the large requisitions.

Q. And you say he gave you similar explanations as to the knives, carbon paper, ribbons, &c.?—A. Exactly.

Q. And did that explanation at all events for the time, satisfy you?—A. It did satisfy me.

Q. What caused you later to speak to the gentleman whom you have mentioned?—A. Well, I was then appointed Assistant Superintendent of Stationery by order in council and I felt then I was in a way responsible for the stationery and really I was at a loss to know what to do and simply asked for advice.

Q. And you noticed then there had been over-stocking for some time, but at what time did you consider it became serious?—A. Well, it would be a year ago last summer.

Q. A year ago during the summer?—A. Yes.

Q. With regard to this over-stocking which has been mentioned, what has become of that stock?—A. Well, we have it in stores.

Q. Except what has been supplied, of course?—A. Oh, well, it has been supplied.

Q. So that the over-stocking is not an absolute loss?—A. I do not think there will be anything lost, even all the ribbons will be used and all the carbons. It is only a matter of time.

Q. That is the loss is in having purchased and paid for it too soon?—A. Yes.

Q. These various companies whose names have been mentioned to you, the Beauchemin Librairie, the Canada Law Book Company, Limited, and those other companies, whose names are mentioned in your subpœnæ, has the Bureau been dealing with them for a long or a short time?—A. For a long time.