

fair for him to continue discussing this question when it is before the committee?

Mr. DAVIN. How do I know that there is ever to be a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee again? I have the correspondence in this blue-book, and I want to put before the public at the earliest moment a complete refutation of the statements made by professional slanderers. Now, what happened?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I put it to the hon. gentleman, that it is quite impossible for the House to form any conception of what the facts are until they see the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee or the report of the committee based upon that evidence. At present we have no data at all to go upon.

Mr. DAVIN. I am perfectly in order. I am not going to refer to what has taken place in the committee.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is not the point of order that is being taken: but the hon. gentleman is being appealed to as to whether we can properly discuss the question which he is introducing now until the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee is submitted to the House.

Mr. DAVIN. If you do not discuss it now, you can discuss it at some future time. But just as I took the first opportunity to tender my testimony, and to ask to be sworn, although the man who was conducting the inquiry, as he stated, for the government would not call me, I want to take the first opportunity of putting the facts before the House and the country. I do not believe, if the Prime Minister knew what an abuse has taken place in this House, that he would sanction it. Now, subsequent to this, Mr. Walter Scott writes to the department, and he receives an answer from Mr. Smart, embodying this opinion of Mr. Rimmer, and saying that he would not pay it. Then, for some reason of which we have no means of judging, after Mr. Rimmer reports against it, and he, the Deputy Minister himself, in a reasoned and unwarrantable reply, refused to pay it, it is paid, and there is no evidence that there was any reference whatever to the Department of Justice. Now, Sir, what happened, as we have it here set out on the pages of the Auditor General's Report? The very moment I got a letter from Mr. Reginald Rimmer in August, as will be seen at the bottom of page H-63Q, I at once wrote:

Regina, N.W.T., August 20, 1898.

Sir.—Replying to your letter of the 16th August, 1898, I beg to say that the \$175 referred to therein was advanced to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), on account of printing the reports of 1894. Nobody supposed any money was due to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), at that time, for, though the official reporter had the MSS.

ready, it had never been delivered and could not be delivered without direction; but the 'Leader' Company had the contract and was promised the MSS. immediately. In 1895, the 'Leader' Company (Limited), made an arrangement with Mr. Scott to print those reports and credit the lieutenant-governor's office with the \$175. The lieutenant-governor's office had notice of this agreement. If, therefore, the \$175 has been paid to Mr. Scott it has been improperly paid.

Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) NICH'S FLOOD DAVIN,  
Man. Director, 'Leader' Company.

The Asst. Sec., Dept. of the Interior.

That letter was not before the Auditor General when he wrote me on October 9, 1898:

Audit Office, Ottawa, November 9, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to inclose herewith a copy of correspondence between this office and the Department of the Interior, with reference to certain payments made to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), and to the 'Leader' Company for printing law reports. Please make the refund of \$175 without delay.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

I wrote the following letter in reply which appears on pages H-46 and 65:

Regina, N.W.T., November 5, 1898.

Sir.—Referring to your letter and inclosures I might well content myself with saying that the 'Leader' Company (Limited), will make no refund of \$175; and the letter of Reginald Rimmer, one of your inclosures, might have suggested a doubt as to the propriety of the demand, Mr. Reginald Rimmer having been legal adviser to the lieutenant-governor. But, as in the letter of Mr. Smart, the material statements are quite incorrect, I think I will state facts which will be at once material and true. The 'Leader' Company (Limited), had a standing contract to print the Supreme Court reports at a certain figure. On the 11th of December, 1894, the lieutenant-governor sent, asking the managing director to see him. His Honour told that person that he intended to have the reports for 1894 published forthwith, and volunteered an advance of \$175, and said the reporter would be directed to furnish the copy forthwith. In consequence the 'Leader' Company (Limited), kept its staff at a strength it would otherwise not have done, and this right on to August, 1895, when it disposed of its plant and business interests to Mr. Walter Scott.

In November, 1895, the 'Leader' Company (Limited), made a contract with Mr. Scott to print those reports and to allow the lieutenant-governor for the \$175 advanced to that company. The managing director wrote the lieutenant-governor and his secretary, Mr. R. B. Gordon, that he had made this contract with Mr. Scott. In December, Mr. Hamilton, the official reporter, was instructed not to call for tenders, but to learn Mr. Scott's price. I made a point of asking Mr. Hamilton many months ago; I made a point of asking him to-day, and he re-asseverates that he did not call for tenders, and that what he was told was to ascertain the price, I suppose to see that no higher rates would be charged than the figure of the old company. That he had no authority to ask for tenders is proved by this, that no contract took place, that Mr. Scott seems never to have known of any contract except the one made between himself and the managing director for some seven months afterwards, that the late lieutenant-governor, who