

that it was. There cannot be any evidence shown to the contrary excepting by the merest possible partisan suspicion. The fact remains that men who knew, unprejudiced and unbiassed, swore to the records as being a truthful record of the situation. The men's time was paid for fully. The paint supplied by the government was returned in full and that being so, every element of fraud in regard to the matter is removed and disposed of. Whether or not it was advisable for the foreman of the yards to allow the government employees to work on Mr. Lanctot's house or on any person else's house, is another question altogether with which the committee have nothing to do, and that was settled very emphatically at the first meeting of the committee. A question was then suggested by the hon. member for Carleton, N.B., (Mr. Carvell) as to whether or not we were going further than to investigate the simple charge against Mr. Lanctot; and the hon. member for East Hamilton (Mr. Barker) who attended all the meetings of the committee, stated then, with the approval of all the committee, that it was the charge against Mr. Lanctot that was to be investigated, only and solely, and that is the one which was investigated. Of course if Mr. Lanctot had been shown to have been guilty of any wrong-doing less than the serious charge made, I suppose it would have been the duty of the committee to so find. For instance, if a man is indicted for murder, and the jury can only find him guilty of manslaughter, it is their duty to find him guilty of manslaughter, but we certainly cannot find any evidence to establish any suspicion of fraud or wrong-doing on the part of Mr. Lanctot in connection with this matter.

But they try to go further. They say that fraud was shown. One of the contentions of Mr. McDougall was that there was a conspiracy between Mr. Lanctot, Champagne and Pagé to defraud the government. You could hardly have a conspiracy to defraud when no fraud was attempted, intended or perpetrated. Mr. Lanctot secured the men and it is said that certain of the men's time which was kept by Pagé was marked against them in the government time-books, they not being present. That happens to be the case. Mr. Lanctot's house is in Sorel. The shipyard is in what is known as St. Joseph de Sorel, across the river. Most of these men live in Sorel. In order to have their time properly marked in the government books they would have to cross the river three times a day, record their time of leaving and then go back to Sorel. In order to avoid the necessity of doing that, and to save them the expense of crossing the ferry, Mr. Pagé instructed one of the men to keep the time of these men as though they were present them-

Mr. GERMAN.

selves. Whatever may be said in regard to the management of that particular branch of the department, I submit we have here nothing to say or do unless it is shown that Mr. Lanctot was a party to that, and that it was being perpetrated for the purpose of permitting a crime against the government. It is absolutely certain that no matter what Pagé did in regard to that, or what Champagne thought, Mr. Lanctot knew nothing about it. He states and the evidence shows that he supposed the time was being properly kept and charged against him, and him only, that it was not being paid for by the government and that he frequently, during the whole course of this work, was asking Champagne for the account and was anxious and willing to pay for the work. But Champagne explains it, and says that he did not want to mix matters up, and thought it better for himself and the men that the time should be kept as other government time, and then when the whole work was completed the time would be sent in to Mr. Lanctot, and he would pay the bill. Then they say the time of the men was sent in to the department as though the men were doing work on government work whereas they were working on Mr. Lanctot's house. That is a matter which must be conceded. The evidence shows that the men working from day to day on Mr. Lanctot's house were being put down as working those days on government work or at least not as on Mr. Lanctot's house, and they must have been put down as doing government work, because they were paid from time to time by the government. But that was a thing with which Champagne had exclusively to do, with which Mr. Lanctot had nothing to do. Mr. Lanctot tells us that his desire was continuously to pay the men as the work was going on. Champagne, for purposes of his own which he explained in his evidence, did this without the knowledge of Mr. Lanctot, without any information to Mr. Lanctot that he was doing it, without knowledge on the part of Mr. Lanctot that it was being done. So far as Mr. Lanctot was concerned, he was under the impression that the work was being charged to him, and to him directly, and that when the work was completed the bill would be sent in.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Did Mr. Lanctot understand that he was making this compact or arrangement with the men or with the department?

Mr. GERMAN. With the men through Mr. Champagne and Mr. Pagé. The evidence shows clearly what happened, and we cannot go outside the record. The evidence shows that Mr. Lanctot went to the yards, having first spoken to Pagé about being able to secure the men. He went to