

## THE MANITOBA SCANDAL.

THE Royal Commission at Winnipeg, enquiring into the Parliament Buildings contract scandals, practically completed the hearing of evidence early in the present month. At the time of writing the Commission is awaiting the result of efforts to force Thomas Kelly, head of the contracting firm, to appear and give evidence. Kelly slipped across the boundary to his summer cottage in Minnesota at the first hint that he might be forced to appear and the latest news from him is that he has instructed his counsel to apply for an injunction to prevent the Commission from compelling him to give evidence. Kelly's defence for this action is that it would not be fair to compel him to give evidence before an inquisitorial commission while he is threatened with a civil action for the recovery of the moneys he is alleged to have received by fraudulent connivance with the late Roblin government. It is therefore likely that some legal procedure will be necessary before it is known whether Kelly can be forced to appear.

The course of the amazing revelations before the Commission were recorded in the Liberal Monthly for June up to the hearings at Minneapolis when V. W. Horwood, late Provincial Architect, told his story implicating several members of the late government. The chief developments since then are appended in chronological order, and it will be seen that this later evidence proved in its won way quite as sensational as any that had gone before. The intimate connection of Hon. Robert Rogers with much of the whole affair was plainly shown.

### Telegrams Destroyed By Order.

June 14.—The Commission resumed the taking of evidence in Winnipeg. S. Goldstein, manager of the G.N.W. Telegraph Company appeared and explained that he could not produce copies of telegrams wanted, which were supposed to include messages between members of the Roblin government and Dr. R. M. Simpson, also messages to or from Hon. Robert Rogers. The reason given was that the copies had been destroyed on orders received from the Head Office at Toronto the day before the subpoena to produce these copies was served.

June 15.—Manager of C.P.R. Telegraphs produced to Commission copies of all telegrams according to subpoena.

June 16.—M. G. Hook told of being given \$10,000 to take to Salt at Denver, but which he said was taken from him by robbers in a "hold-up" at Omaha. He swore the money was given to him by Horwood, the Provincial Architect, on April 8, and that he understood this was the money Salt demanded as pay for staying away from Manitoba. Hook also said that after returning from Omaha he had told Sir Rodmond Roblin about what had happened and "the old man" told him not to worry about the money.

June 18-18.—Hon. G. R. Coldwell former Acting Minister of Public Works, implicated in the evidence of Architect Horwood, denied all the evidence of Horwood and blamed Horwood for all irregularities.

June 22.—J. Paddington, district superintendent of G.N.W. Telegraphs, testified that acting on

instructions from Toronto on June 10, he quietly entered the offices of the company at midnight and destroyed all messages asked for by the Commission. Previous to this the messages had been taken off the files and on June 7 were handed to M. H. Macleod, General Manager of the Canadian Northern Railway, who returned them.

### A Warning to Rogers.

June 23.—Hon. G. R. Coldwell, recalled, declared that Horwood and Salt has perjured themselves in evidence given at Minneapolis and again denied all knowledge or complicity in frauds. Mr. Coldwell admitted authenticity of telegram which he had sent to Hon. Robert Rogers at Ottawa on April 1st "This means more to you than appears on the surface. Would advise you to take measures to protect." He claimed that the telegram referred only to Dominion political matters, but later admitted that it included reference to Manitoba provincial affairs.

June 24.—Hon. J. H. Howden, former Attorney General, gave general denial of all knowledge of wrongdoing, but admitted that Dr. R. M. Simpson, President of the Winnipeg Conservative Association had given him \$1,500 to retain a lawyer to act personally for Horwood. This was after Horwood had gone away to the United States.

June 25.—Hon. Dr. Montague, former Minister of Public Works, examined in his quarters at the Royal Alexandra hotel because of ill-health, gave evidence in which he defended Kelly, the contractor, and insisted that he knew of nothing wrong in connection with Kelly's contracts. On Monday, June 28, Dr. Montague continued his evidence, denying all statements by Horwood which affected the witness.

June 29.—Harry Whitla, K.C. of Winnipeg, Conservative candidate in South Winnipeg at the last elections, told of having been retained to act for Horwood; also that he obtained from Dr. R. M. Simpson the sum of \$10,000 which he gave to the Pinkerton Detective Agency to be given to Salt to keep Salt away from Winnipeg. M. H. Macleod, General Manager of the Canadian Northern said he had secured copies of telegrams from the G.N.W. Company and gave them to Edward Anderson, K.C. Mr. Anderson testified that he had received the telegrams and had shown them to Hon. Robert Rogers of Ottawa, who wished to "refresh his memory" as to what was in them. These were the telegrams later destroyed.

### Asked Rogers to Help.

June 30.—Sir Rodmond Roblin gave general denial knowledge or complicity, similar to that given by other ex-ministers. He admitted having telegraphed to Hon. Robert Rogers at Ottawa asking the latter to make arrangements with Sir William Mackenzie, President of the Great Northern, whereby Sir William would send F. H. Phippen, chief legal adviser of Mackenzie & Mann, to Winnipeg to represent Kelly before the Commission. Later he admitted that he had sent several telegrams before it was finally arranged that Phippen should come,