

tioned the matter to Mr. Parmelee. I was going to Toronto in connection with other work, and I dropped off from one train to the other—

Gentlemen in the habit of travelling between Toronto and Ottawa will notice what a direct route Mr. Cook followed:

—and I dropped off one train to the other and visited the 'Reporter' office to see what they had there. I had not been near them before or broached the subject, not did I know that there was such a thing when I was on my holidays long before. I found that they had the same power press as we had, a folding machine, a trimmer, and everything that was necessary to do the work.

Q. There has been further evidence given here by Mr. Parmelee, corroborated by another witness, that on one occasion in this room, when this particular order was under discussion, you mentioned that when the proofs of the work came to the Bureau, you saw that it was not being done by the Gananoque 'Reporter,' but by the Ottawa 'Free Press,' and that you did not make any mention of the matter because you did not want to bring Mr. Norman Smith down about your ears or something to that effect?—A. That is practically right. When the first proofs came here, the manager of the 'Free Press,' Mr. Barker, told me that he had made arrangements with Mr. Britton to do the work. After thinking the thing over, I thought, well, so long as they did it, we had a hard and fast price fixed. I did not know just exactly what to do, and I let the matter go.

Q. You did not report it to Mr. Parmelee?—A. No, I did not. I thought that so long as we got the work, and got it at a reasonable price, I did not want to incur the displeasure of the 'Free Press.'

Q. You were aware that the 'Free Press' was not doing it for the price you had fixed for the Gananoque 'Reporter'?—A. No. I asked Mr. Barker afterwards what he was doing it for. He said there was not much margin in it for them, he was kicking at what they had to do it for. As a matter of fact, he told me that they were doing it for something in the neighbourhood of \$200 less than the Gananoque 'Reporter' got it for.

So that as a business transaction the Bureau could have paid what the 'Free Press' charged for it?—A. I do not know. We were paying for that work the ordinary rate the Immigration Department had been paying right along, and it was a pretty close price.

I might interject here that that statement is absolutely untrue as are most of Mr. Cook's statements.

Q. But not so close that the 'Free Press' was not able to shave it off a couple of hundred dollars?—A. I asked Mr. Barker how he could account for that. He said: 'We are dead, we are dormant, and it is a filler; there is not much in it, but it is better than nothing—better than having our presses standing.' I made up my mind that if we had pamphlets of that kind in the future, it would be a bidding proposition. I know that prices vary according to the amount of work in offices at times. You will get high tenders at certain

times and low tenders at others. It depends on how busy they are.

Q. After the work was completed, the Gananoque 'Reporter' rendered their account, did they not?—A. Yes.

Q. And it was presented to you in due course, and vouched for by you?—A. Yes. We had a complete delivery of the work, and we put through an account for it.

Q. And to that account you attached this certificate: 'Examined, prices fair and just. (Sgd.) R. E. Cook'?—A. Yes.

Q. When you put that on the account rendered by the Gananoque 'Reporter,' you know, as you have just explained, that the work was done in the Ottawa 'Free Press' office?—A. Yes, I must admit that I was aware of it at that time.

The effect of that evidence was to leave me under the impression that this gentleman knew nothing about the Ottawa 'Free Press' having done that work until the proofs came to him from the 'Free Press' office; yet he admitted that when he certified the account as fair and just he had knowledge that the 'Free Press' had done that work for \$200 less than he had certified the Gananoque 'Reporter' account for, and he explained that by saying that he thought that was the best thing to do.

But, there is another chapter of this transaction that has come to hand since this report was printed. You will observe in the evidence given by this worthy gentleman, upon whom the hon. member for Hastings places such reliance, that he mentions an interview that occurred with Mr. Barker of the 'Free Press'. After this report was printed and circulated the attention of Mr. Barker was drawn to the evidence given by Mr. Cook. After Mr. Barker had read that evidence he came down to my office to explain that Cook's version was absolutely false from beginning to end. He further explained that Cook had first of all arranged a price of \$1,160 with the Gananoque 'Reporter,' that later on Cook had arranged a second price of \$950 with him, and not only arranged that, but he had arranged that the proprietor of the Gananoque 'Reporter' was to come to Ottawa, get the copy from the Bureau and go up to the 'Free Press' office with it; later still that when the proprietor of the Gananoque 'Reporter' came to Ottawa, Cook actually telephoned, and made arrangements for him to go up; that later still, when the Ottawa 'Free Press' inquired as to how they were to be paid, this worthy gentleman told them to render their account to the Gananoque 'Reporter,' and that he would notify them when the cheque was issued from the Bureau to the Gananoque 'Reporter.' He also directed them to send the proofs to him while the work was in progress. This was such an astounding statement, in view of the evidence given by this gentleman