

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

the cheque to the accountant of the department you did not do it?—A. I would not have to do it unless the instructions came from the board. I am under the board, not under the secretary.

Q. It was in the face of a letter from the secretary of the commission directing you to return the cheque to the accountant—you did not do it—you entered into correspondence direct with the Barber & Ellis Co. for a further supply of envelopes that had never been ordered. Is that so?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you had any more experiences of that kind?—A. No, sir, just one.

Q. Just with John O'Gorman. I am afraid John is likely to lead young gentlemen astray. Did Mr. Ryan consult you about why this was done?—A. No.

Q. He did not?—A. No, he did not.

Q. Did you have no conversation with Mr. Ryan?—A. I do not think so, unless it was quite recently. I do not remember any conversation with him.

Q. Have you seen Mr. Ryan's explanation?—A. I read it in the Auditor General's report.

Q. On the 12th of November, 1906, while these proceedings were going on in the police court, to which reference has been made, Mr. Ryan, the secretary of the commission, wrote to the Auditor General giving his explanation. I presume it came from you:—

'I have the honour, by direction of the board, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., having further reference to Barber & Ellis' account for \$391.20, and to hand you herewith a letter from our purchasing agent, Mr. A. L. Ogilvie,—

That is the letter already referred to in the Auditor General's report,—

'in which he states that he did not call for tenders for the purchase of these envelopes, though quotations were received as stated in his letter of November 3.'

You refer there to the Davidson quotation, I suppose?—A. Yes.

Q. 'As stated in his letter of November 3, addressed to the chairman, and which I sent you with my letter of the 5th inst.

'With reference to the return by Mr. Ogilvie of Messrs. Barber & Ellis' cheque for \$87.05, I am to say that this was done by Mr. Ogilvie on his own responsibility and without the knowledge of the commissioners—doubtless with the object of saving bookkeeping.'

That was the explanation you gave to Mr. Ryan?—A. No.

Q. All that is the image of his own imagination, I suppose?—A. I suppose Mr. Ryan understood that.

Q. He thought you were doing all this in order to save bookkeeping? You did not suggest that to him?—A. No, I did not discuss that question with him at all.

Q. That was rather a peculiar experience that you had. When that cheque came back you obviously saw that O'Gorman was going to make \$87 on that bid he gave to you. I suppose you took some profit from that experience, didn't you? You did not deal with that class of man again?—A. Who do you mean, the Munroe Commission Company?

Q. Yes?—A. Oh, yes, we did.

Q. You did, after you had found out he was simply a go-between?—A. No, a commission man or sales agent.

Q. Yes, but you know you would not even go to the actual agent of the Rolland Company in Ottawa here because he was a middleman?—A. I did not say that I would not go to him.

Q. You did not go to him, although the Rolland Company referred you to that man?—A. Well, we felt that if the Rolland people did not wish to deal with us direct, we would deal where we liked and where we could do the best.

Q. You were apparently so indignant about that, and yet you continued to deal with O'Gorman, the celebrated O'Gorman we may call him now, although you had