

Public Accounts.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM, No. 49,

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 22nd May, 1894.

The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts met.

Mr. J. P. B. CASGRAIN, sworn and examined.

By Mr. Davies:

Q. What is your name in full?—A. Joseph Philip Baby Casgrain.

Q. What is your profession?—A. I am an engineer and land surveyor.

Q. Where do you reside?—A. In the city of Montreal.

Q. Do you know the location of the Lachine canal?—A. I do.

Q. Do you know the bridges that are built across that canal, commonly called the Wellington street bridge and the Grand Trunk railway bridge?—A. I do.

Q. They were lately rebuilt?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. During the course of the winter of 1893.

Q. After they were rebuilt, I believe there was an investigation into the expenditure connected with the rebuilding?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you appear before that commission?—A. We were charged, Mr. Roy and myself, by the Montreal *Herald* Co. to appear before that commission.

Q. Did you ask to see the plans and papers which had been filed?—A. Yes, we asked to see the plans and papers.

Q. Just state who were the commission?—A. The commission was composed of Mr. Henry F. McLeod, Mr. G. Emile Vanier, and Mr. Douglas.

Q. Of the railway department?—A. Yes.

Q. And what Mr. McLeod is that?—A. Well, I really don't know. He is an engineer.

Q. Is he a Montreal man?—A. He is a resident of Ottawa, I believe.

Q. You applied to this commission, I believe?—A. Yes, first verbally, to be allowed to have access to the plans and specifications.

Q. Did you eventually get them?—A. After six weeks we were allowed to see the plans.

Q. And who showed them to you? Who had charge of them?—A. Well, the commissioners at first declined to let us have them. Then afterwards we wrote a formal letter intending, if they refused, to be done with it. Then we received an answer from the chairman saying that the documents which were before the commission, filed in the examination as exhibits, could be examined by us during the sessions of the commission.

Q. Did you go to examine them?—A. Immediately after, we went to examine them, and we took communication of all they handed to us.

Q. Certain documents have been produced here before the public accounts committee, and this is one of them (handing witness a plan). Will you look at it and see if you examined it?—A. Yes, this is a blue tracing of the plan, and the only plan, that was furnished us by the commission.

Q. That is a blue tracing of the only plan furnished you by the commission?—A. Yes.

Q. What does that blue tracing purport to show?—A. First, the location of the two bridges and the canal, then the vertical sections and cross-sections of the different works on the canal.

Q. Is it a plan made previously to the works being executed?—A. I was informed that this plan was made after the work had been completed.