

with him, and had always found him an agreeable man to work with, and never heard him give a man an uncivil word in his life. The only disagreeable thing he had ever known about Mossop was that he wanted to get the men to work at 7 in the morning while working for Miller. Joseph Culp stated that he had known Mossop, and never knew him to be quarrelsome; that he was always a quiet, good natured man. Thomas Ryan, who worked with Mossop at different times for about twelve years, said he had always found him to be an agreeable man to work with for the time that he was under his charge. Cornelius Reidsaid he had always found Mossop to be a good, peaceable, kind man, and had never heard any complaints against him. That is the character that Mossop gets from those who have worked with him and under him, and known him from boyhood. But whatever Mossop's character may have been, whatever he may have said or done, does not palliate or justify the conduct of the officials as exposed in the investigation. Mossop is to-day in a foreign country, endeavoring to earn bread for his family, who are still in Canada, living at section No. 1 on the Welland Canal. There are plenty of men working on the canal, such as the drummers I have spoken of, who are kept there simply because they are pets of Demare's—men who are working extra time and getting \$20 or \$30 a month in addition to their regular wages. It seems that the principal qualification that is required for a man to obtain work on the canal is to belong to the clique at Port Dalhousie, and to the band particularly; and I think by the time I get through you will find that this band and the band hall at Port Dalhousie are quite an institution. I could mention some of the entertainments they give there; I could mention something also about instruments that came into this country free of duty. I could refer to clogs which are admitted duty free, and which, I presume, are used for clog dances at the Port Dalhousie band entertainments. I have now concluded the list of charges as divided by the commissioner, and I propose to take up the question of maladministration of the canal. It is very important and desirable that a public official, occupying such a responsible position as that of Superintendent of the Welland Canal, should be civil and obliging to every one that approaches him

on business, and the Government and the people of this country expect that to be part of his qualifications. Whatever else he may lack, he should at least possess that. I shall now give you the evidence of witnesses as to Mr. Ellis' manner of treating people who had business to do at his office. At page 313 Nelson Current says: "I was treated rudely and shabbily by Mr. Ellis when I went to see him on business." At page 320 Alexander Stuart, a bridge-tender, says that Mr. Ellis discharged him because he did not run to open the gate for J. B. Smith. That was the trouble: he did not run when Mr. Ellis snapped his fingers. I have seen Alexander Stuart, and he is as good a specimen of a man as stands in Canada to-day, but he was taken back again—the cast iron rule did not work there. The power behind the throne got him back; Mr. Rykert had him put on again. As Stuart says in his evidence: "I got a letter a few days afterwards from Mr. Ellis by Mr. Demare that I was to go to work again." When I asked him why he was discharged, he said: "Because I did not run he discharged me, and I had a pair of knee boots on my feet. We were puddling clay when he called me." That was not a very good reason for discharging a man, because when he had a large pair of knee boots on his feet he did not run to please Mr. Ellis. If Mr. Ellis had been a good judge of human nature he would have said to Stuart: "I see you have a heavy pair of boots on; give me the key and I will open the gates myself." He would have made a friend of that man for life; but no, the tyrant showed itself when the occasion occurred, and because Mr. Stuart would not run to open the gate for J. B. Smith, Mr. Ellis' broker, he was discharged. There is another gentleman, Mr. John McDonagh, of Thorold, who gave evidence which will be found at page 342. He says that he was treated rudely by Mr. Ellis because he refused to lend him \$800 and also refused to endorse his paper. Mr. McDonagh is respected wherever he is known. He was councillor of his own town for three years, reeve of his town for four years, mayor of his town for four years, magistrate of his county for twenty years; and last, though not least, he is president of the Conservative Association of Welland, a position he has occupied for the last eighteen years.