

IN CHAPTER SEVEN

he explains his method of conducting this enquiry. It does not appear that Mr Langelier notified the Company respecting the said enquiry. As a fact, the Company was notified, by telegraph message, only after the Commissioner had closed his enquiry on the claims against Mr MacFarlane, and after I had remarked upon this omission to the Honorable the First Minister, at Quebec. And then it was too late for the Company to act effectively for the protection of their interests.

Mr Langelier states that Mr Giroux, one of the Directors of the Company, was present during the inquest. Mr Giroux did not attend in his quality of Director of the Company, but watched his own personal interests, in as much as he had executed certain works and furnished material along the line; and he attended in order to check the correctness of the claims which had been filed against him. He made, at the very time, a declaration to that effect to the Commissioner, formally drawn up, as appears by the declaration annexed (A). Mr Giroux had not the requisite knowledge respecting the affairs of the Company to enable him to look after such an inquisition. He was not authorized to do so. Besides it would have been hardly proper for the Company to have been represented there without invitation or notice from the Commissioner.

Thus it happened that the important depositions of Mr MacFarlane, subcontractor, and of Messieurs Light and Leduc, Engineers, upon which the Commissioner bases the conclusions of his report, were taken without the knowledge of the Company, which was never notified of the place where, or the time when these declarations were going to be taken.

As to the evilly disposed persons who, according to Mr Langelier, were desirous of preventing the people from filing their claims, the Company knows nothing. This Gentleman should remember, however, that he himself did on many occasions during the enquiry, declare to the creditors of Mr MacFarlane, that it was not necessary for them to swear to the correctness of their claims, that all the claims which agreed with the pay-rolls of MacFarlane would be paid without any other formality, as appears from the declaration annexed of Mr J. F. Armstrong (B).

I thought that I ought, as a preliminary, to take notice of these two assertions in order to put your Honour in a position to judge whether this enquiry was carried on in a legal and equitable manner, and whether your Commissioner exercised all the prudence and diligence requisite to produce a just and impartial report.

IN THE FIRST CHAPTER

of his report Mr Langelier gives an historical sketch of the Company, and he sets forth the subsidies coming to the Company on the first one hundred miles of their road. He heads his second chapter as follows; — "Were these subsidies sufficient", and closes it by stating that the company should have all that was necessary to pay its contractors.