

ST. JOHNS ELECTION INQUIRY.

The Commission reassembled on Friday morning last the 13th inst., but upon examination of the ballot boxes brought by Mr. Chadwick from Ottawa it was decided to adjourn and that the Commission sit at Ottawa for the purpose of locating the missing ballots. These ballots were found and brought to St. Johns, September 17th.

(Reprinted from the Montreal Gazette.)

Evidence indicating that Hon. Frank B. Carvell had tried to secure the vote of the soldiers of the Canadian Engineers' Training Depot at St. Johns, Que., until he found that he was to be returned by acclamation, and that after that he had tried to have the vote turned over to Col. H. F. McLeod, in York county, N.B., when he found he himself would not need these votes, was introduced yesterday at the Royal Commission to investigate into the charges against the officers and men of the C. E. T. D. at St. Johns, by Lieut. E. T. Adney, in the course of a day's procedure that was fairly electric with unexpected incidents. Lieut. Adney's evidence came well on in the afternoon, following a series of sharp exchanges between Lieut.-Col. Melville, of the C.E.T.D., and Aime Geoffrion, K.C., and between Mr. E. Fabre Surveyer, K.C., and Mr. Geoffrion, which had made the whole morning's proceedings tense with excitement.

Lieut.-Col. Melville's evidence was marked by sharp interchanges with Mr. Geoffrion on the question of residence as applied to soldiers' votes.

This was followed during the afternoon by a series of officers of the C.E.T.D., which was marked by efforts by Mr. Geoffrion to show that there must have been some prearranged plan for the election in order to secure the voting of some 517 or more soldier voters there, out of about 800, for the Chambly-Vercheres Unionist candidate.

This was denied by officer after officer, all of whom declared that there had been no plans for the election, and affirmed strongly that there had been no orders or efforts in an organized way to make the men of the depot vote one way or the other.

Mr. Geoffrion was ironic in the course of his examinations, and repeatedly tried to draw witnesses out as to whether it was by a miracle or mere coincidence that so many hundred soldiers who had come from all over the United States and Canada, should have decided to vote en masse for Mr. Jos. Rainville, the defeated candidate in Chambly-Vercheres. But no matter how he cross-examined the military witnesses he failed to bring out any evidence to show that there had been any plans or instructions to turn the vote at the St. Johns barracks for Mr. Rainville. Much time was spent on this, but every officer of the many examined insisted that there had been no plan, simply a general talk on the situation, and an understanding that their votes were needed to help out Mr. Rainville in Chambly-Vercheres.

OFFICERS NOT LAWYERS.

As to the point of why officers had declared that they could not declare on their ballot envelopes any place where they had resided for four months or more during any time previous to the election a good deal of difficulty arose, since the soldier witnesses were not versed in legal

technicalities, and simply fell back on the general understanding that they had believed the military vote could be allocated where it was most needed to win the war by returning the Union Government, and that since they had all believed this could best be secured by helping Mr. Rainville in Chambly-Vercheres, whom they knew as a supporter of the Military Service Act, they had voted for him.

So far as the rest of the men were concerned it was sworn by officer after officer that there had been no efforts or influence of any kind to swing their votes, and it was indicated that the fact of so many of the men voting as they did was merely due to the general feeling that by so doing they might help elect Mr. Rainville, whom they regarded as a patriotic Canadian, and defeat Mr. Archambault, whom they considered to be an opponent of the Military Service Act.

This morning it is expected that a number more officers will be called from the Engineers' Training Depot, these being used by the accuser as his own witnesses, from whom he proposes to prove his case. Later on it is expected that a number of the deputy presiding officers will be called, to testify as to the proceedings at the actual voting. Following this it is likely that the hearing will be postponed, probably until Friday, so that several absent military witnesses may be brought to St. Johns.

PRO-GERMANS HERE.

The sensation of the investigation was reached when Lieut. E. T. Adney, an artist American volunteer, with the C.E.T.D., was called in the afternoon, and made a series of rhetorical replies to Mr. Geoffrion's questions that at times caused a stir of applause in the court. This was especially the case when Lieut. Adney referred to the necessity of guarding the lines at home against slackers and other disloyal elements in this province, remarking that since he could not get to the trenches he had at least got into the defence lines here, and that real peace had not come in this province until the bullets had started to fly.

Lieut. Adney said that he was an American citizen, an artist and magazine writer of New York, 46 years of age. He had come to New Brunswick to settle up business affairs of his wife's, and when these were settled he had considered whether to go back to the United States and carry on his profession or join the Canadian army.

"I decided that this was no mere pettifoggery question of perjury or political matters," he declared, "but a question of the safety of the nation, and I joined the Canadian army. Then six months later I became a naturalized Canadian citizen, and at the election last December I voted, with the other officers."

Lieut. Adney declared that he considered it was a matter of saving the country by the soldiers at the front, and by winning the election here to support them, and he had been prepared to take his responsibility of doing what he could to win that election for the Union Government. Therefore he had taken an active part in the elections, not commanding any military votes, but stating his convictions as to the advisability of voting for the Union Government, and placing such votes where they would do the most good.

"We are interested in lots of places that are not our own homes," said Lieut. Adney, "just as some people attend to lots of things that are not their own business. I considered that our duty was to defend our country against the Huns and the slackers and the pro-Germans of Quebec." This was greeted with a sign of ap-



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