

worth, and that that is evidence that the men's time has not been fully accounted for, and that all the material which went into the painting of the house had not been charged for by the government and paid for by Mr. Lanctot. Now, what is the position with regard to that? We find that Mr. Lanctot paid the government for 217 days painting on his house. There were about four days of ordinary labourers, who were not working on the painting work, which made it a little more than that; but the labour on the painting came to \$367.59. Now, Mr. Douaire, the star witness of the gentleman who made this charge, himself admits, at page 36, that 216 days' work was all that was necessary to do the painting of that house, and 217 days work was paid for by Mr. Lanctot at the prices paid by the government, and Mr. Douaire says that 216 days' work is what he calculated. Now, we find there is \$367.52 for labourers on the painting. An account was kept of all the paint that was supplied, and Mr. Pagé tells us what was done. He says that he mixed the paints himself. When he found that paint could not be obtained from Labelle & Company, at Sorel, he mixed the quantity of paint to be used on Mr. Lanctot's house, and set it apart for that use and for none other. The whole of that paint was not used, but the whole of it amounted, in value, to \$81.60. As soon as that account came in to Mr. Lanctot after the work was completed, he paid the money. Mr. Papineau replaced the paint, having purchased it from the same people, I presume, the government buy their supplies from; Mr. Papineau purchased the paint at \$81.60, and Mr. Lanctot paid him the money. Then there was \$18.95, an account with Labelle & Company, for paints, and there was an account of \$25 with Mr. Joseph Rivet for painting blinds, windows, &c., making a total of \$493.07 for the painting. Now, we are reminded that Mr. Douaire says that the painting should have been worth \$950, but he calculates in the \$950, about 20 per cent of a profit. Another witness says about \$1,200, but they all admit that 217 days is the requisite number of days to do the painting, and then it is a question of what the paint itself was worth.

Now, to establish that with accuracy, three witnesses are called who give their evidence in regard to that matter at pages 201, 204, and 215 of the evidence. The first witness is Mr. Trudeau, manager of the painting department of Henry Morgan & Company, of Montreal. He has occupied that position for 11 years, is an experienced man in painting work. He went to Mr. Lanctot's and measured the house, took the number of cubic yards in the

house which had been painted, and can speak with accuracy. These men who gave their evidence as to the cost of painting did not measure the house, they all admit that they did not measure the house, and they are speaking from guess. Mr. Trudeau went there and measured the house, and he put the number of yards at 685, and he puts the value of the painting done \$491.38, as against \$493 which it actually cost. Then we have at page 204, Mr. Joseph Dagenais, sworn. He lives at Montreal, he is a painter and contractor, and has been a painter for 16 years. He went to Mr. Lanctot's and made a measurement of the number of yards of painting that was done, and he put the value of the work at \$502.71. Here I wish to distinguish between the cost and the value, because all these men say that in estimating the value they add a profit of 10 to 15 per cent; he puts the value of the work done at \$502.71, and he measured accurately the number of yards of painting, and indeed went there for the purpose of making a statement of the value of the work. Then at page 215, we have the statement of Mr. Joseph Edmond Gauthier, of 354 Champlain street, Montreal, manager for the painting department of Castle & Sons, Montreal.

He has had many years experience at painting work. He went to Sorel, measured the house, took the number of yards of paint work and he puts the value at \$461. There are three men of experience, none of them having the slightest interest in this matter, one way or the other, all leading business men of Montreal, and is there any person who will be bold enough to say that these men will come here and deliberately perjure themselves for the sake of satisfying the desires of Mr. Lanctot or any one else. They are experienced men, they went there to make the measurements, they did make them, they speak with authority, and that is the statement they give. Two of them are below the amount it cost Mr. Lanctot and one of them is only \$4 or \$5 above that amount. Remember they are including in that the contractor's profit as well as the cost of the work. So I say that when Mr. Lanctot made his statement in the House or in the committee, that he thought the work was costing him more than it should have done, he was speaking by the book. I cannot apprehend that any one will feel that the work cost Mr. Lanctot actually less than it should have cost. When you have got that far you have got just as far as the evidence will carry you in regard to those particulars. In the first place was the time of the men, employees of the government, who worked on Mr. Lanctot's house, fully and completely paid for? The evidence is overwhelming