

testify to the good management of Mr. Ellis. So you must come to the conclusion the canal has been efficiently managed by Mr. Ellis. It is true that little things have cropped up here and there; but look at the gigantic work which is going on. He has been here for ten years; and what can you say against Mr. Ellis? He has got 249 pickets; that is all he has put in his pocket, and that not paid for by the Government; he has had sod brought to his house, and a few loads of gravel; and that is all you can fasten upon Mr. Ellis. He may have erred in judgment upon one or two occasions, but his whole interest has been in favor of the canal and the Government.

And the last point is the testimonial to Mr. Ellis. I pointed out to you, and I now show you that Mr. Conway, the manager of the canal at Lachine, the general superintendent, that he has had a testimonial given to him repeatedly, and that, too, with the knowledge of the Government, given to him in a public place, commented upon by the merchants of Montreal in the Board of Trade, and public notoriety given to it; and yet there has been no remonstrance. It is a matter of taste about a gentleman receiving those things; but to say that any testimonial given to Mr. Ellis, either of a flattering character, by way of resolution, like that of the Thorold Township, or otherwise, is given in consequence of a service to a class in the community, I think is not justified.

But Mr. Ellis, when he came here, was in an unfortunate position. I do not know that you are here to expose his private affairs.

THE COMMISSIONER—No.

MR. RYKERT—He came here in an unfortunate position; and if they gave him a testimonial, it was not for the purpose of making him give them a *quid pro quo*. He has acted in the public interest, and I think the testimonials have had no derogatory effect on the public interest. And, with these remarks, I submit, with all confidence, that, after a careful review of the matter, you will report that the whole investigation, from beginning to end, was prompted by malice, by a personal spite, in the interests of a man named Mossip, who was totally unworthy of any trust being reposed in him. I make those observations because Mr. McCallum charges that this man was unjustly dismissed. Now, we have shown he is a man totally unworthy of the confidence of anybody, unworthy of being employed; and all the charges, from beginning to end, are based entirely upon the evidence of dismissed men, who have been turned out of office because they disobeyed orders, or for drunkenness, or for the violation of some rules, which were necessary to be enforced in order to have efficient management on the canal. So I think you will come to the conclusion that the whole thing, from beginning to end, is a frivolous and vexatious enquiry; and I would urge upon you strongly, if I be permitted to do so, to make such a report to the Government as will satisfy them that there was no ground for the enquiry; that while you make your suggestions, as I know you will do, about the management of the great public work, I think you must come to the conclusion that no portion of the report will be able to fasten upon Mr. Ellis any stigma or any charge that he has acted in dereliction of his duty.

THE COMMISSIONER—I wish to just say, at the close of this investigation, as I probably shall not have another opportunity of doing it, and I wish it taken down, that I have been exceedingly gratified at the courtesy that has been extended to me personally by the parties conducting the case, by Senator McCallum on the