

PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTIONS CHARGED UP TO CONSUMERS

Amazing Facts Bought Out at Inquiry Into Paper Making Costs, Donations to Halifax Explosion, Patriotic Funds and Cost of Fighting German Anti-Trust Law in U.S. Charged To Cost of Production

Ottawa, April 10.—The report of government Auditor G. T. Clarkson on the deductions which the publishers claim from the cost of producing newspapers as used in price fixation by the Commissioner of Patents before Mr. Pringle at today's hearing.

With regard to such items as charging patriotic fund and Halifax disaster contributions to cost of operating mills instead of treating them as gifts out of profits, Mr. Clarkson merely says that the amounts deducted by the publishers are correct, if these items ought to be eliminated from costs, in connection with the charge that the Laureate Company included in its cost of defence against the Sherman anti-trust law, Mr. Clarkson says: "The cost of criminal proceedings were written off in the first month ending February 28, 1918, if the claim is allowed the deduction to be made will be 13 cents per ton of newsprint paper."

Actual Production Proper Basis.

Mr. Clarkson apparently accepts the publisher's contention that Commissioner Pringle was in error when he arrived at a basis for price-fixation by averaging averages of various months instead of using actual production. Regarding this item in the Booth mill, the Clarkson report says: "The deduction is correct, not average cost for the period ending February 28, 1918, the publisher's cost of production having involved a reduction of 29 cents from the amount employed by the commissioner."

One of the interesting points at issue between manufacturers and publishers is as to whether the Booth mill, with a large stock of cheaper cut wood on hand from earlier years, should be permitted the costs of wood cut recently arriving at its cost per ton of newsprint. Mr. Clarkson says: "Inasmuch as low cost wood in the normal course of events comes into use by the Booth Company in the months following January 1918, the publishers are clearly entitled to draw attention to the condition as providing special circumstances which would lead to lower costs to Mr. Booth in the months succeeding June and to ask that these circumstances be given heed to."

Makes a Big Difference.

"If it should be held in view of the circumstances obtaining that all wood used during 1918 had been averaged, the deduction to be made would be 143 per cent of newsprint for the six months."

The Clarkson report is clear on the point that a wrong method was used in arriving at cost per ton of Booth newsprint. Mr. Pringle, when he added the total cost of the newsprint produced, instead of newsprint plus wrappers, since the total included the cost of wrappers. His report on the Booth mill says: "The production weight shown in cost statements on which unit costs are ascertained, should be increased to include weight of wrappers, giving a deduction of \$1.18 per ton of newsprint."

Canadians Paid on U. S. Sale.

The government auditor expresses his opinion on the practice of charging Canadian publishers with commission on sales in the States, but says regarding the Booth mill, that the commission of the publishers is upheld and commission on American sales be allowed to American business, the deduction of which will be \$1.50 per ton of newsprint."

The Clarkson report expresses a definite opinion as to "Price Brothers' charge for freight and handling of newsprint." He says: "Freight was required to be paid by the company in connection with the working out of old contracts, with subsequent sale of paper at a profit. The publisher should be eliminated and deduction made of 54 cents per ton of newsprint produced."

Over-Exported Power.

Auditor Clarkson's assistant, W. D. Taylor, was examining today on the deductions from Fort Frances mill costs, which the publishers contend he agreed that if Canadian generated power had been divided equally between the mills on the Canadian and American sides, instead of greater proportion being exported, there would have been a reduction in mill costs on the Canadian side.

Ground wood, one of the constituents of paper could then have been produced in the Canadian mill at a time when it was, instead, brought from other mills at a higher price. The deduction from newsprint costs arrived at by Mr. Taylor, owing to diversion

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CLYDE SPLITS HAIRS ON DEPARTMENTS

Discriminates Between Detectives Department and License Officials.

MONEY NOT SUPPLIED By License Board to Pay for Liquor, Says Flavelle.

That the selection of Homer, Ont., as the delivery point for the famous consignment of liquor had originated in his mind was the statement made by Charles Clyde, an operative of the Employers' Detective Agency, at the O. T. A. probe yesterday, which is being conducted by Sir William Meredith. Clyde is a former tailor and presser with a business in St. Catharines, but of late date has been a proprietor of the Doyle Hotel at Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he had known the L. W. Smith connected with the case, and had also known of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

Clyde told of Smith calling on him for the purpose of going into a deal for the purchase of a consignment of liquor, and Clyde had agreed to enter into the deal and had, accordingly, selected Homer as the best place for the supposed distribution of the liquor, to the men working on the case, and had also known of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

After detailing the preliminary steps which led up to the buying of the "booze," Clyde went on to tell of the arrival of Homer with the truck and of his pretence of looking for the license inspector on the telephone to the effect that he was waiting for the inspector to arrive. He finally, however, had to get Smith to unload the stuff behind the liquor, and in return, he tendered the phoney cheque for \$200.

Pole By Birth.

Clyde stated that his home was in St. Catharines, and that he was a Pole by birth, and told of his business as a cleaner and dyer in St. Catharines before he opened up his business as a hotelkeeper at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Witness told the court of his interview with Mr. E. White, of the Employers' Detective Agency, in order that he might get a position at the latter agency. While waiting for a position, he was in St. Catharines, and was in the employ of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

The Homer delivery point was all his own, stated witness, who told of the next meeting at Smith's home, when it was arranged that Smith should deliver 80 cases to Homer in the week preceding Feb. 11, and that the (Clyde) first visited Homer, while the cheque for \$200 was given witness on the same day as the Smith letter was received. There were hardly any instructions from McPhail as to purpose of the cheque, stated witness, because it was not intended to give the cheque to Homer, but to give the cheque to Smith, and to have Smith deliver the liquor to Homer.

McPhail Gave Cheque.

W. S. McPhail, according to witness, came to the scene when Mr. Roy, giving a scriptural authority for the statement, he outlined the political situation of the country, and added that she lost her independence through fraud and deception, and that she was a victim of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

He quoted from the words, spoken and read by the leaders in the British parliament, and also "cross-examined" the evidence of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

Old as the World.

Speaking in regard to Sinn Fein, Mr. Roy said that the term was as old as the world, and that every man who values justice and right is a Sinn Feiner. He said that the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic were as old as the world.

The resolution of the evening was read by Lindsay Crawford, and again read by the speaker. He said that the chief, or one of the chief causes of the war, was a defective system that denied the right of self-government to the smaller nations. Mr. Crawford then endeavored to show that the seeds of war were planted at the congress of Vienna in 1814, and that the war of 1914 was the result of the (Smith's) side activities in the illicit liquor traffic.

He declared that "I was working for a Mr. White of the department." Witness further stated that Smith had threatened to test his head on the wall, and that he was in the court room on Wednesday.

Under cross-examination by Mr. Mackay witness stated that there were two departments according to his idea, the agency, and the license department. Mr. Mackay asked the witness if that was the method when pursuing in giving his evidence, and Clyde stated that it was.

Flavelle Denies.

J. D. Flavelle, chairman of the 11-day board, was then called to the stand.

"Was any money supplied by the board of license commissioners, or by their authority, or by anybody else in Toronto to your knowledge in connection with this transaction?" "No sir," replied Mr. Flavelle.

"That is all," said the commissioner.

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