

Commission Finds Manitoba Charges Are Fully Proven

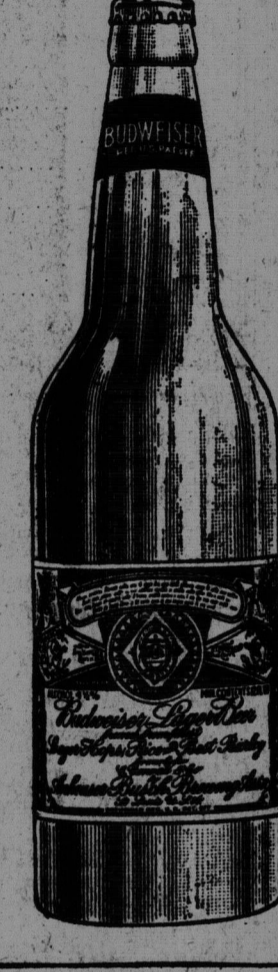
Sweeping Indictment of Former Premier, Sir Rodmond Roblin, and His Colleagues in Government—Conspired With Contractor and Robbed Province of \$892,000

Winnipeg, Aug. 25.—The report of the Mathers Royal Commission, published this afternoon, summarises the findings of the commissioners as follows: 1.—That all the charges contained in the above in part rectified amendment and memorial have been fully proven. 2.—That before the contract for the parliament buildings was entered into a fraudulent scheme or conspiracy was formed to obtain an election fund out of extras in connection therewith; and to defer contemplated changes until after the contract was let, for the purpose of creating large extras for this purpose; that the parties in said scheme or conspiracy in its inception were the premier, Sir Rodmond Roblin; Mr. Caldwell, the acting minister of public works, and Thomas Kelly, the senior member of Thomas Kelly & Sons. 3.—That Thomas Kelly & Sons were informed of the contemplated changes before tenders were due. 4.—That the tender put in by the Peter Lyall Company, being the only one received by the department of public works, on the 2nd of July, 1913, within the time advertised, was on that day either shown to Thomas Kelly, or its contents made known to him, and on the following day a tender was received from his firm for \$8,250 less than the Lyall tender. All the circumstances point to Sir Rodmond Roblin as the person through whom or whose authority Thomas Kelly obtained this advance knowledge of the Lyall tender. 5.—That the change from piling to caissons for the foundation was prudent, and although there is some doubt as to the wisdom of the change from concrete to steel we are satisfied that the stability of the building has not been impaired by such change. SCHEME TO RAISE ELECTION FUND. 6.—That the fraudulent scheme or conspiracy formed before the contract was entered into to obtain from the extra an election fund, as afterwards continued and carried out. For this purpose Dr. R. M. Simpson, V. W. Horwood, the provincial architect, and at least some of the other members of Thomas Kelly & Sons, became parties to and active participants in carrying it out, in addition to those by whom the original conspiracy was formed. There is no direct evidence that J. H. Howden, the attorney-general, was a party to the conspiracy at its inception, but his subsequent conduct convinces us that he early became a party to it. We believe that Dr. Montague, for some time after he became minister of public works, did not become a party to the fraudulent scheme or conspiracy entered into by his colleagues, but that he was informed of its existence and purpose by Dr. Simpson in January or February, 1914, and that he then became a party to it. 7.—That in pursuance of this fraudulent scheme or conspiracy very large sums of money belonging to the province were fraudulently paid out to the contractors, Thomas Kelly & Sons. 8.—That the contractors, Thomas Kelly & Sons, out of the monies so fraudulently obtained, paid large sums of money to Dr. R. M. Simpson for an election fund. PROVINCE ROBBED OF \$892,098.10. 9.—That in pursuance of this fraudulent scheme or conspiracy the contractors, Thomas Kelly & Sons, were paid by the government the following sums of money, to which they were not entitled: In respect of the caissons, \$680,704.50. In respect of the north wing steel, \$102,692.36. In respect of the south wing central portion and dome for, \$68,977.71. In respect of the brick for rubble, \$37,963.73. In respect of the three feet of excavation dispensed with by the buildings being raised, but nevertheless paid for, \$21,754.20. Total, \$892,098.10. 10.—That in further pursuance of the said fraudulent scheme or conspiracy, the north wing steel contract by Sir Rodmond Roblin and Dr. Montague with the contractors for \$880,100, a price known to all of them to be inflated to the extent of over \$100,000 by the inclusion therein of a large sum for election fund. 11.—That in further pursuance of the said fraudulent scheme or conspiracy, Sir Rodmond Roblin entered into a contract with the contractors for the south wing central portion and dome for \$202,650, he and the contractors well knowing that said price was inflated by the inclusion therein of a large sum for election fund, and there had been no plans prepared for the dome, and at that time no honest estimate of the steel required could be made. DR. SIMPSON, THE TOOL. 12.—That Dr. Simpson acted as financial agent of the then government in carrying out the aforesaid fraudulent scheme and conspiracy, and in respect of the caissons and the three steel contracts mentioned, either dictated the lump sum or the project for election fund, or he advised Mr. Horwood's estimate, and in pursuance of such dictation the architect did add to his estimate in each case the sum so specified. 13.—That Mr. Horwood accepted such dictation from Dr. Simpson, in the first on instructions from Mr. Caldwell, and he afterwards continued to do so with the knowledge and acquiescence of Dr. Montague. DESTROYED THE RECORDS. 14.—That Sir Rodmond Roblin and Dr. Montague, some time after October 18, 1914, and before January 1, 1915, leaving the consequences which would result from the discovery of the aforesaid contract, destroyed, or caused to be destroyed, the order-in-council passed on July 4, 1914, authorizing the execution of said contract and the several copies thereof, together with the said contract and every paper and record known to them by which its existence could be traced. 15.—That Dr. Montague agreed with the contractors, Thomas Kelly & Sons, to recoup them out of the dome construction to the extent of \$75,000 at least, for the loss they sustained in the destruction of the destroyed contract, and he sent Mr. Horwood to Chicago in company with Thomas Kelly to arrange with E. C. Shankland to increase the weight of steel in the dome plans, then being prepared by him to the extent necessary to accomplish this purpose; that Mr. Horwood did so arrange with Mr. Shankland, who did increase the weight of the steel as required. 16.—That the steel plans for the dome December 8, 1914, when the last payment was made, until work was stopped, about the middle of May, the contractors are overpaid to the amount of \$701,068.89. 17.—That the government agreed to pay E. C. Shankland five per cent, on the contract price of the dome to be erected from his plans and on December 29, 1914, this sum is more than double what his remuneration would have been based upon the necessary tonnage of steel in the dome at reasonable ton prices. 18.—That during the session of the public accounts committee in March, 1915, W. A. Elliott, the chief inspector, at the request of Mr. Horwood, certified the yardage of concrete on the last three applications for payment in respect of the caissons, and William Salt, also at Mr. Horwood's request, altered his records of the depth of the caissons for the purpose, in each case, of deceiving the said committee, and that in each case Mr. Horwood acted by instructions of Mr. Caldwell. Paid Official to Go Away. 19.—That when Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Horwood ascertained that William Salt would not falsely swear to the accuracy of the said altered depths of the caissons, he was by them sent out of the province, beyond the reach of the said committee. 20.—That this same witness, William Salt was paid various sums of money to remain out of the province during the session of the public accounts committee, and after the prorogation of the legislature he was paid large sums to remain out of the jurisdiction of your commissioners. That those actively instrumental in keeping William Salt beyond the jurisdiction during the period named were Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Howden, Thomas Kelly, Mr. Horwood and Dr. Simpson, and the agents employed by them that purpose were Mr. W. A. Elliott, Mr. M. G. Hook, two employees of the government, and Mr. H. W. Wilts. 21.—We find that after giving the contractors credit for all the work done and the value of the materials on the site, and of the steel fabricated but not delivered, including the work done from

THRILLING TALE OF HILL 60

(Continued from preceding page), iam puffed silently at a cigarette, there another writhed and shouted in delirium orderlies went from man to man with steaming basins of soup, doctors bent over stretchers lying on the floor, re-dressing wounds or administering the merciful morphine, others with some wreck of humanity stretched on the operating table were engaged in a last desperate struggle to save life, and in the midst of the bustle, noise and reek of blood a chaplain knelt in prayer by the side of a dying man. To get out into the fresh air again was like going into a new world. The duty that called one back to the fight was welcomed as a relief; the dangers and horrors to be found at the foot of Hill 60 were easier to endure than those words of suffering and horror. Monday passed and Tuesday dawned, and still the fight raged on. The shattered remnants of the 18th Infantry Brigade were drawn out, and others took their place, and at last Major Hannafin and his comrades, almost in a state of collapse were relieved and given the opportunity of a few hours' sleep. Whether the hill was ours or not we did not know, but if the British could not hold it neither could the enemy, and their great attack which had meanwhile developed on every side of us, was greatly hampered thereby. Some Dauntless Heroes I feel I have failed in my effort to make you realize this fight and there are so many tales of heroism I might have told. The gallantry and devotion of Major Hannafin and Lieut. Morris, working on the hillside under dreadful fire, or in the railway cutting swept with shrapnel, and with its high explosive shell, would in a lesser way have won them special recognition. The sleepless labors of the Rev. D. F. Carey (Church of England) who from beginning to end of the rush walked the wards helping the doctors, comforting the wounded, praying with the dying—doing a work which brought fresh glory to the name of Christian minister. There were our gallant comrades of the British Red Cross who brought their care to our help over shell-swept roads, noteworthy among them being Mr. Fisher (in peace time a don at Oxford), who during all these days, never slept, was ready to turn his hand to any work, from driving a car to carrying a stretcher, and so give some exhausted bearer a brief rest. I was Mr. Gibb of the Society of Friends' Ambulance (a barrister and the son of Sir John Gibb), who did such good work with his own hands, bringing his "motor coffee-shop" as he men call it right up to the dressing station, always under fire, never stopping, dispensing to wounded and to exhausted doctors and bearers hot bowls of soup tea and coffee, and his own coffee, which he had brewed for him. I saw one of the bearers, and he spoke so bravely to the hospital, that I was surprised when the strain Mr. Gibb did the work single-handed, and when to draw out the stretcher, and when to stretch and so give some exhausted bearer a brief rest. I was Mr. Gibb of the Society of Friends' Ambulance (a barrister and the son of Sir John Gibb), who did such good work with his own hands, bringing his "motor coffee-shop" as he men call it right up to the dressing station, always under fire, never stopping, dispensing to wounded and to exhausted doctors and bearers hot bowls of soup tea and coffee, and his own coffee, which he had brewed for him. I saw one of the bearers, and he spoke so bravely to the hospital, that I was surprised when the strain Mr. Gibb did the work single-handed, and when to draw out the stretcher, and when to stretch and so give some exhausted bearer a brief rest.

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MORNING WAR SUMMARY

London, Aug. 25, 10.15 p. m.—An official report on recent operations in the Gallipoli peninsula, issued tonight, set at rest rumors which have been in circulation for several days, crediting the British troops with having either cut off or outflanked the Turkish forces opposed to them. The report states that while the ground gained is of great value the true objectives have not been reached. In the first attack, early in the month, the Australians and New Zealanders reached the summits of Sari Bair and Chanak Bair, commanding positions on the west coast of the peninsula, but through the failure of the new landing party at Suvla Bay to make the progress expected, the troops from the dominions were compelled to fall back. Another attack was made last Saturday, but on this occasion, having lost the advantage of surprise, the British could not reach the summit and were compelled to retire again. The report admits heavy British losses, but adds that those of the Turks must have been heavier. Altogether the British hold a front of twelve miles along the west side of the peninsula, and at some points have penetrated a considerable distance into the interior. The Turks are making a very stubborn defense of their positions, but the Allies have confidence that with the strong forces at their command, and the assistance of the fleet, the Dardanelles will be forced before the arrival of the unfavorable weather, which is due towards the end of September. BAD ROADS DELAY GERMANS. Weather conditions also are playing a part in the operations on the eastern front. It is reported that the roads in Coufard are softening already, as the result of continued rains, and that the Germans are finding it more difficult to move forward their artillery. They are still trying, however, to force back the Russians, who are holding the line between the rivers Asa and Dvina, and claim to have been successful at one point, at least. General Elichorn, who captured Kovno, is advancing eastward, according to

Berlin, while progress is reported by each of the five armies which are marching on Best-Litovsk. One of these armies—that on the southwest front—is said to have broken through one of the advanced positions of the fortress. General Elichorn's plan, apparently, is to march rapidly on Vilna, and after occupying that town to attempt an advance to Minsk, thus placing his army on the Russian line of retreat from the Bug, while Field Marshal Von Mackensen and Prince Leopold of Bavaria continue their efforts to envelop Best-Litovsk. As Grand Duke Nicholas still has several lines of retreat open to him, and as his rear guards heretofore have shown their ability to hold off the Austro-Germans until their retirement was effected, military writers here do not believe this plan will succeed. The only event of importance reported from the western front is the capture by the Germans, of a portion of a trench they lost to the French in the Vosges. Elsewhere it has been only a repetition of artillery, hand grenade and mine fighting. New York, Aug. 25.—A news agency despatch, published here this afternoon under date of Athens, August 25, says: "Two allied cruisers penetrated the Dardanelles yesterday and bombarded the Kastanea batteries with considerable effect." London, Aug. 25.—Forcing of the Dardanelles and attack on Constantinople may be looked for at almost any moment now, in the opinion of military authorities here. Rumors were rife today that the Straits had already been forced, and one official, stating that he had it on unimpeachable authority, but refused to give details, made the following enigmatic statement: "Something of such importance has already occurred at the Dardanelles that the price of wheat will shortly be greatly affected." It is probable that many of these rumors took their origin in the statement from Athens this morning that two British cruisers had penetrated the Dardanelles, sunk four Turkish transports and destroyed several shore batteries, a story that caused great enthusiasm in London today.

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\$470 FOR FUNDS FROM EAST ST. JOHN FAIR Stomach Trouble Due to Acidity It was announced last night that \$470 had been realized at the East St. John patriotic fair which was held last Saturday at Courtenay Bay Heights. The committee in charge of the fair has decided to apply the proceeds as follows: \$100 to the Red Cross, \$100 to the Soldiers' Comfort Association, \$100 to the Tobacco fund, \$100 to Miss Kiel, nurse in France, for the benefit of her patients, and the remainder to provide a bed in a hospital at the front. The ladies of East St. John have arranged to give a supper at the garden party to be conducted by the band of England Band at Courtenay Bay on Labor Day. No Cure Guaranteed More Corns Never known to fail, acts without pain in 24 hours. It scalds, healing; takes the sting right out. No remedy so quick, safe and sure as Fenosa's Peppermint Corn Extractor. Sold everywhere—25c per bottle.