

5. If there were any other such letters I have no copies of them, and cannot say where they may be found. I am sure there were no such letters containing anything material with reference to the present inquiry.

6. The letter which I have set forth is the only correspondence I recollect having on the subject.

7. My opinion of the bills submitted to me was that, judging by what we used to pay for similar services in Ontario, some of the charges were too large.

8. I communicated this suggestion in writing to Mr. Sifton, from whom I had received the bills. The writing I refer to was the letter hereinbefore set forth.

9. I do not recollect whether Richards & Bradshaw's bill was one of those which I had received; probably it was. I made no other "complaint" except as stated in my letter to Mr. Sifton. It was hardly a complaint, as the Dominion had not paid the bills, and a lawyer's bill may honestly contain higher charges than would be taxable.

10. I complained of Mr. Howell's bill in this matter, on the ground already stated, that is to say, I thought some of the charges too large. I complained in the sense mentioned in my answer to the ninth interrogatory.

11. I gave instructions to Mr. Newcombe to tax all the bills, it being usual that bills of costs against the government are so moderated and taxed.

12. The instructions which I gave Mr. Howell were to proceed with such of the cases as he should obtain sufficient evidence to call for or justify convictions.

13. In giving these instructions I said nothing about a record being made thereof in my department, the subsequent verbal direction to tax being all that was necessary, whether there should be a record made thereof or not.

14. I was present in Council when it was unanimously agreed that the costs of the prosecutions would be defrayed by the Dominion government. I cannot give the exact date when this was done. It was before the advance of \$3,000 towards the expenses. I presume that the agreement so come to, was the first connection which the Dominion government had with these prosecutions.

15. It was understood that the conduct of the proceedings was in proper hands, Mr. Howell was the principal solicitor and counsel, and we all had confidence in his efficiency for the duty. We had confidence also in the ability of Mr. Cameron, the Attorney General of Manitoba, with whom he conferred.

16 and 17. There was nothing which any officer of my department in Ottawa could be instructed to do as the matter then stood. The necessary investigations could only be made in Manitoba, and the gentlemen engaged in the locality of the frauds could receive no useful assistance from me or my department in making them.

18. In Ontario, in most cases arising in the administration of justice, with which as Premier and Attorney General I was for so many years familiar, the criminal prosecutions are attended to in the locality without any reference to the department in Toronto; and nothing may be heard of them in the department until the amount of the expenses to be repaid by the province to the county comes up for consideration—nothing more than this being necessary. I was not long enough in my office, as Minister of Justice, to name any contentious matter except the present where such a course as the question refers to was followed. The case, however, was peculiar in its circumstances, and just such a case may not have occurred before. I thought it quite clear that the matter could be best managed locally and not from Ottawa.

19. I do not recollect, and cannot state, all the occasions nor all the dates when I discussed the cases in question with my colleagues in the Dominion government.

20 and 21. Private letters sometimes get upon the official files, and should be withdrawn. In my own practice, both at Ottawa and in Ontario, I endeavoured to keep private and official letters separate and not on the same file; but, occasionally, with all my trouble, they did get mixed up.

22. I do not recollect knowing that Mr. Sifton was raising money upon his note or notes on which he was liable to carry on these prosecutions. I do not yet know that he raised money in that way for the purpose named.