

PURCHASE OF THE LAND AT CAMP BORDEN.

How an \$80,000 Rake-off was Negotiated.

Before the Public Accounts Committee on May 11th, 1917, the details in regard to the purchase of the land at Camp Borden were for the first time made public. The documents placed on record on this occasion proved conclusively that when the Government decided to purchase the land for Camp Borden they made an agreement with a Real Estate agent in Toronto, authorizing him to purchase the land at whatever price he could and gave him a hard and fast agreement, that regardless of what he purchased the land for, the Government would be willing to reimburse him at the rate of \$12.00 per acre.

We produce herewith extracts from this agreement. We also produce extracts from a letter written in the office of this real estate agent to one of the owners of the land at Camp Borden. It is a typical letter, in fact one of many which was sent out.

The Extracts from the agreement referred to are as follows:

"Hon. A. E. Kemp,
Acting Minister of Militia,
Ottawa.

"I, James Barr, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York in consideration of the sum of Twenty-Five (\$25.) already paid to me under a former offer, hereby offer to sell to you or to obtain for you the lands and premises, situate lying and being in the County of Simcoe and being known as Lots Numbers 18 to 32, (here a detailed description of the land is given), in all containing seventeen thousand, three hundred (17,300) acres and which said property is more particularly shown inclosed within the red lines on the sketch hereto attached; at and for the price or sum of TWO HUNDRED & SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$207,600), it being understood that if said above mentioned property exceeds the acreage of 17,300 that you are to pay me in addition to the above amount a sum equivalent to TWELVE DOLLARS (\$12) per acre on such overplus and in case it does not amount to 17,300 acres there is to be deducted from the above sum, an amount equivalent to twelve dollars (\$12.) per acre on the deficiency.

"I hereby state that I am the owner or control some 8,000 acres of the above mentioned land.

"You are to be allowed until six p.m. April 15th, 1915, to accept this offer. Time is to be the essence of this agreement.

"If this offer is accepted, all former offers to you in respect to said lands are hereby cancelled. Acceptance hereof shall be sufficient if a letter accepting same addressed to me at 22 College Street, Toronto, is deposited in His Majesty's Post Office, any place in Canada on or before six p.m. 15th day of April, 1916.

"Dated at Toronto this 10th day of April, 1916.
(Sgd.) James Barr.

"Witness: (Sgd.) F. B. Poucher.
I hereby accept the above offer, O.K.
(Sgd.) A. E. K.

"Dated at Ottawa, this 14th day of April, 1916.
(Sgd.) A. E. Kemp.
Acting Minister of Militia and Defence."

We also quote extracts from the letter which was written from Mr. Barr's office to one of the owners of this property who resided in Montreal. It is as follows:

22 College St.,
Toronto, Ont.,

Fred Smith, Esq.,
1916 De la Roche St.,
Montreal. Sept. 18th, 1916.

Dear Sir:
No doubt you are aware that the Government has

expropriated certain lands situate in the Township of Tossorontio and Essa in the County of Simcoe, now known as Camp Borden.

The Government is willing to compensate you for your property. I am authorized to offer you the sum of eight dollars (\$8.00) per acre cash for same, or in lieu thereof an exchange of an equal quantity of land equally as good as yours with equal improvements, situate near the borders of the Camp.

I am fully aware that you property has cost you more than the cash price offered herein, but when you consider THAT THE BULK OF THE LAND HAS BEEN PURCHASED AT AN AVERAGE PRICE OF LESS THAN SEVEN DOLLARS PER ACRE FOR UNIMPROVED AND SOME IMPROVED LANDS, you will understand why the Government is not willing to pay more than the price offered for a cash settlement.

Signed by Mr. Barr's clerk.

The agreement shows that the Government agrees to give \$12.00 an acre for the land.

The letter from the Real Estate agent states that all the land at Camp Borden has been purchased for less than \$7.00 per acre. A little mathematical figuring will tell anyone just what the rake-off was in the deal by glancing at these two documents. In the first place the Government agreed to purchase 17,300 acres at \$12.00 per acre, or a total expenditure of \$207,600. The real estate agent in his letter shows he purchased the whole of this land for less than \$7.00 an acre which amounts to \$121,100. There is, therefore, \$86,500 difference in the price paid by the Government and in the price paid by this real estate agent.

COST OF ADVERTISING VICTORY LOAN

It takes money, and a lot of it too, when the Borden Government come to pay the expenses incurred in connection with the Victory Loan of November, 1917.

To be exact, the total cost for organization, publicity and commissions up to April 5th, 1918, is \$3,620,395, according to the following statement given to the House on April 12th, 1918, by the Acting Minister of Finance, the Hon. A. K. McLean, in answer to a question of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The Figures as given are:—

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| Organization expenses..... | \$ 376,000 |
| For Publicity Campaign: | |
| (a) Through the Dominion Publicity Committee..... | 163,000 |
| (b) Through Canadian Press Association (disbursements to date)..... | 207,000 |
| For remuneration to Brokers and Bond Dealers..... | 750,000 |
| Commissions to canvassers..... | 1,140,000 |
| Remuneration to Banks..... | 984,395 |
| | \$3,620,395 |

and this is not all. Mr. McLean added:—

"In addition to this, there are, of course, the departmental expenses for printing the interim receipts, for engraving the bonds, for the staff employed, numbering some 700 persons, in the Department of Finance, who have been specially engaged upon this work since last December. It is estimated that the total cost of the loan, when finally available, will approximate \$5,000,000 or about one and one-quarter per cent of the whole loan.