

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, 29th May, 1891.

The Committee met at 10.30 am.; Mr. Girouard in the chair.

Investigation into certain circumstances and statements made in connection with the tenders and contracts respecting the Quebec Harbour Works &c., resumed.

Mr. PATRICK LARKIN sworn :

*By Mr. Tarte :*

Q. You have been, I think, a member of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co.?—A. I have.

Q. Since how long?—A. Since its formation in 1878; but I am not now a member nor have I been for the last three years and over three years.

Q. Have you with you or elsewhere the books of the firm?—A. I have not, nor never had them. I have not seen them for years.

Q. Have you any other papers in connection with the business of the firm?—A. Nothing except a few letters from the firm.

Q. You have not the books of the firm?—A. No, I have not.

Q. Do you know where those books are?—A. Well, the last I saw of them they were in the office at Quebec. That is over three years ago.

Q. That is the last time you saw them?—A. Yes; I did not look at them then. I saw the outside of them.

*By Mr. Edgar :*

Q. Who had the books when you last saw them?—A. They were in the charge of the firm there. The bookkeeper had them. They were in the office.

Q. Did the firm continue after you left it?—A. Yes.

Q. Under the same name?—A. Yes; and they continued until very recently.

Q. Under the name of Larkin, Connolly & Co.?—A. Yes.

Q. You as a partner went out and the books all remained in the custody of the continuing members of the partnership?—A. Yes.

Q. Who were they?—A. The members of the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. were Nicholas Connolly, O. E. Murphy and myself. That was all the members of the firm.

Q. After you left?—A. At any time.

Q. Are those all who were interested?—A. No; there were two others, but they were not members of the firm. They had an interest in the profits of the works.

Q. Who were they?—A. Michael Connolly and Robert McGreevy.

Q. Where there any arrangements when you left as to which of these other members of the firm should keep control of the books?—A. No; it was never mentioned.

Q. They were left in the office?—A. I sold out to Mr. Nicholas K. Connolly. I have the terms of sale with me.

Q. He took your place?—A. Yes.

Q. Who was the bookkeeper of the firm?—A. Martin P. Connolly. He is no relation to the members of the firm.

Q. Had he been there long?—A. Yes; he was there I think since the latter part of 1884.

Q. Do you know whether he was there continuously?—A. Yes; I think so.

*By Mr. Tarte :*

Q. Were there not articles of partnership between yourselves?—A. Yes; I think they were registered on the Point Lévis side, because we commenced work there.