

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
COMMITTEE ROOM No. 32,
TUESDAY, February 12, 1907.

The Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts met at 10.30 o'clock a.m., the acting chairman, Mr. Geoffrion, presiding.

The committee proceeded to the further consideration of certain payments to the Munroe Commission Company and the Barber & Ellis Company.

CHAS. ROSS MUNROE is called three times by the clerk of the committee, and fails to respond.

Mr. JOHN O'GORMAN.—I would like to make a statement to the committee. Mr. Munroe will not be here to-day. He is not very well, and the evidence in connection with this matter he is not at all familiar with; so I thought that probably all you would require to-day would be my own evidence. If Mr. Munroe is required he may be here at the next sitting.

Mr. BARKER.—We want him here or we would not have subpoenaed him.

Mr. JOHN O'GORMAN, of Toronto, called, and sworn and examined.

By Mr. Barker:

Q. What is your name?—A. John O'Gorman.

Q. And you are carrying on business, I believe, as the Munroe Commission Company?—A. We are carrying on business, Mr. Munroe and I are.

Q. As the Munroe Commission Company?—A. The Munroe Commission Company, Toronto.

Q. When did you form that company?—A. 1st September, 1905.

Q. 1st September, 1905. And when did you register?—A. I would not be positive of the date, but it was some time in February. I think January or February.

Q. That is near enough. What was Mr. Munroe's business employment at the time you formed the partnership with him?—A. Previous to that he was cashier of the Massey-Harris Company.

Q. The Massey-Harris Company? He was an office man?—A. An office man, yes.

Q. And what was your occupation up to that time?—A. I had been sales manager of the Hobbs Hardware Company.

Q. Selling hardware?—A. Well, yes, I was sales manager, looking after the sales, looking after the travellers.

Q. Of hardware?—A. Of hardware, general lines.

Q. Then you left the Hobbs Company and went into this commission business?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How soon after you formed your company, or partnership as it was then, I suppose—how soon after that did you come to Ottawa to get some business here?—A. Well, it would be in the early part of October some time.

Q. About a month after you formed the partnership?—A. About a month.

Q. Was that the first business you transacted?—A. Yes, sir—no, no it was not the first business.

Q. After the partnership?—A. No, no. I mean it was the first business—