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REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1910

MORE GRAFT ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL

Abundance of Rock and Little Earth According to Contractors -- Pugsley's Methods of Letting Dredging Contracts--Favorite begins Work before Tenders are Opened--How Fielding was Outwitted--An Attempt made to Hide Damaging Evidence in Lumsden Case--Newspaper Men Ordered Out of Committee.

The Lumsden inquiry is still proceeding. It is worth while remembering how the over-classification charges made by the former chief engineer work out. Six cases have been given already; here are two more:

Case No. 7--On this piece of work the government engineers returned 12014 yards solid rock, 9550 yards of loose rock, and 5867 yards earth, working out at \$24,028. Mr. Lumsden says there was no solid rock at all, and about one eighth was loose rock and seven eighths each. This would have cost \$6,755. Thus there was an over-payment of \$17,273, or 255 per cent.

Case No. 8--Here the engineers returned 42,460 yards solid rock, 26558 yards loose rock, and 37154 yards of earth. This worked out at \$84,771. Mr. Lumsden said that there was no solid rock and about a quarter of the rest whole rock loose rock, with the rest earth. On this basis the honest price would have been \$30,003. Thus the over-payment was \$54,767, or 182 per cent.

Thus the eight cases so far examined work out thus:

No. 1--Proper cost, \$4,420; actual cost, \$14,636; over-payment \$10,216, or 230 per cent.

No. 2--Proper cost, \$1,735; actual cost, \$7,711; over-payment \$5,976, or 344 per cent.

No. 3--Proper cost, \$1,059; actual cost, \$4,158; over-payment \$3,138, or 296 per cent.

No. 4--Proper cost, \$1,616; actual cost, \$5,857; over-payment \$4,241, or 262 per cent.

No. 5--Proper cost, \$3,440; actual cost, \$11,735; over-payment \$8,295, or 241 per cent.

No. 6--Proper cost, \$4,702; actual cost, \$10,303; over-payment \$5,600, or 199 per cent.

No. 7--Proper cost, \$6,755; actual cost, \$24,028; over-payment \$17,273, or 255 per cent.

No. 8--Proper cost, \$30,003; actual cost, \$84,771; over-payment \$54,767, or 182 per cent.

On the whole eight cases the figures are: Proper cost, \$53,730; actual cost, \$163,239; overpayment \$109,509, or 203 per cent. Thus these pieces of work cost just twice what Mr. Lumsden, the government's own engineer, says was honest and right. Mr. Lumsden could not dismiss the men who made these outrageous over-classifications, and when he complained the Transcontinental Commission dismissed him.

Pugsley at St. John
M. Pugsley's way of doing things has once more been laid bare. His department is entering upon extensive dredging operations at St. John, N.B. The work will last for several years and will amount to several million dollars. Bit by bit the facts have come out, and here is how the story stands.

The Department advertised for the work. It did not say how much it was. It did not say how long it would last. It did not say where it was to be done. There were no plans. There were no surveys. Thus the position was that if a man whom Mr. Pugsley disliked got the contract, he could set to work at difficult and expensive places, and ruined; while if a man whom Mr. Pugsley liked got it, he could be given easy work.

There were two other contractors who put in tenders. One was the Dominion Dredging Company of Ottawa, which means Gordon Stewart, son of Robert Stewart, until 1908. Liberal member for Ottawa; and the other was the Maritime Dredging and Construction Company of St. John otherwise John E. Moore, principal owner of the St. John Telegraph, and a great friend of Mr. Pugsley. See what happened.

Gordon Stewart could not find out what the work was exactly. He was not allowed to ascertain that it was to extend over a long term of years. He asked the engineers at St. John and at Ottawa and they could or would tell him nothing. If anything he was misled. So he put in a bid that was much higher than he would have done if he had known that the work was for a term of years. Furthermore, the advertisement said that the tenderer must have on hand, at the moment of tendering, dredges registered in Canada. So Gordon Stewart made

haste and ordered one or two expensive dredges.
Mark how things went with John E. Moore. He knew about the long term of years. He knew where the work was contemplated. He put in a varying bid for varying portions of the work. He did not bother about getting dredges. He got the contract. But on one part of the work his figures were higher than Stewart's, that would not do; so a quiet arrangement was made behind Stewart's back that Moore was to do the work--at Stewart's price. When all was secure, Moore bought an American dredge, which he did not take the trouble to register.

When the facts began to come out, Mr. Pugsley's apologists set going a story that the Stewart interests had been consulted and had assented to the arrangement. But it turns out that Stewart protested vigorously. First he was angry at having been kept in the dark.

"We tendered for this work," he wrote angrily to the minister, "without having any knowledge of the quantity of material to be removed, as we could get no information from the officers of your department either in Ottawa or St. John, as to this work, and no plans of the work could be shown us, as no surveys had been taken so that in tendering, we based our prices on an ordinary season's work, as we would naturally do considering that the deposit cheque called for was only \$5,000."

And later, when he found that his rivals had the work at his own figure he wrote again in angry protest. But in neither case did he get any satisfaction from the minister.

Note two things about this case. First, see how high the cost is. The Dominion Dredging Company expressly says that if it had been given a fair treatment it would have bid far lower.

Secondly, notice if they do not stand in with Mr. Pugsley. Four of Mr. John E. Moore's dredging contracts have been investigated. In three his tenders were set to work, either before they were opened. In this case competitors were scientifically jockeyed out of the way. Contracts are not awarded fairly.

Fielding Outwitted
At the moment of writing the tariff negotiations between Canada and the United States are hanging in the wind, with governmental apologists hinting at a surrender. The most important development, however, has been the action of France, which has conceded to the United States her whole minimum or "conventional" rate of duties.

Our whole present disagreement with the United States springs from the Franco-Canadian Treaty. Our preferential treatment of the Mother Country has been expressly recognized by the United States as a domestic matter, over which they can feel no grievance. But the French Treaty does give to France a distinct preference over the United States. Moreover, Mr. Fielding hoped that Canada would get better treatment on certain lines in France than the United States, for instance, he declared that Canadian harvesters would enjoy a preference of \$5.00 a machine in France over American harvesters. However, France gave us only a part of her "conventional" or minimum tariff.

This bargain brought the present tariff row upon our hands and gave the United States an excuse to club us into lowering our tariff on American goods. Then France gave us, and more States all she had given us, and more, the same treatment. It is that the American give nothing, get better treatment from France than we do, and have a lever on us which they are twisting for all they are worth. Mr. Fielding has been ignominiously outwitted.

The Lumsden Case
The All-Grit remnant of the Lumsden committee pursues its devious way, making an average of one break per day with unflinching regularity. It began by managing things so un- fairly that the Conservative members withdrew from the committee in protest. Then it was afraid to have its conduct discussed in parliament, and made plans to suppress discussion until the incident had been forgotten. The way in which it hoped to manage this was to omit to report; until it

reported the house could not debate the matter. Unfortunately for this plan, one of the Conservatives, Mr. Houghton Lennox, had had the prevision to pass a resolution that the proceedings evidence be reported to the house day by day. The language of this motion, which was declared carried, was absolutely clear and explicit.

The All-Grit remnant took the line of obliging the clerk to draw up a garbled report, stating that the evidence "printed"--not reported--day by day. The Conservatives, however, complained of this in the house, and in particular, Mr. Borden administered a most severe castigation to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Victor Gordon.

The All-Grit committee could not stand the publicity thus thrust upon them, and they backed down. First of all a meeting was held at which they explained that the garbling had all been done by the clerk; when he had thus been given the floor and a synopsis of what he was expected to say furnished him in advance, the clerk rose and said "Quite so."

The matter of reporting to the house remained. The remnant held another meeting, which they intended to hold in private. But two Conservative newspaper men heard of it, and attended. Confusion on the part of the remnant, who dearly wanted to meet in private, and yet dared not take the odium of expelling the press. They sent the clerk to tell them that the presence of the press was not desired.

Now neither of the journalists is a small man and one of them has an unholly reputation as an old-time football player. He has a forbidding face withal; windows have been known to break when he smiled in over-proximity to them. He smiled on this occasion. "That is why we are here," said he.

"Quite so," said the clerk, and tactfully withdrew.
So the remnant went on and talked in whispers. They decided to report the proceedings, but not the evidence. Still trying to choke off debate, you see.

Later the Conservative members gave the remnant to know that this would not do. In the house if those unpleasant debates in the house if they did not come down completely. So they came. On Tuesday they held yet another hurried meeting, and decided to report proceedings and evidence--just what Mr. Lennox had demanded days ago.

And so volumes of evidence, which had been locked up, kept even from members of parliament by the policy of silence are now released.

That is the remnant's record up to the Easter holiday.

Probable Delay
Ottawa, March 27.--There is a movement on foot to postpone the holding of the Dominion Conservative convention until 1911. This movement was originated among the Eastern wing of the party and is being promoted on the ground that June 15, 1910, would be an unsuitable date as far as the general public is concerned, and it would be equally unsuitable from a political standpoint because of several thorny questions which it is said had better be gotten out of the way before the convention meets.

Though the movement may not be successful there is no doubt that it finds support in certain quarters. It is strongly opposed particularly by the western element, who urge that the present is a most opportune time for the convention, and that faith with the party in general should be kept.

It is admitted on all sides that the June date is a mistake owing to the fact that courts and militia camps will be under way then. However, it is thought that a month's postponement could be arranged without difficulty.

Settlers For Vonda
Montreal, March 28.--The commencement of a lively move of immigration of French-Canadians to Saskatchewan will be made in a few days when Father Berube, a well known French priest, now resident in the western province, will leave with 100 French-Canadian families to settle in the Vonda district of Saskatchewan.

Father Berube, who is enthusiastic in the movement to get good repute in the settlement of French-Canadians in the far west, returned a few weeks ago when he expects to send 500 families from this province to settle in Saskatchewan.

Crazed Visitor
Halbrite, Sask., March 25.--A man, giving the name of Jim Flynn, about 30 years, weighing about 250 pounds, with a reddish complexion and red hair, was brought into town today in a crazy condition. He is supposed to have fallen off the train yesterday morning from Portal. He gives his address as Thiensville and Mesquar, Wis. He has a receipt showing he was in Milwaukee on March 22, and he claims he had two partners by the names of Frank Rodger and Frank Gernsel, going to Lethbridge.

COMMISSION GETS TO WORK

First Day Spent in Getting Documents--Commission will Adjourn for a Week--Clark will Testify.

Edmonton, March 30--The Royal Commission enquiring into the Great Waterways contract opened this morning with an imposing array of counsel in the legislative chambers. W. J. Nash, K.C., and L. M. Johnston are official counsel. F. J. Nolan represents Premier Rutherford and D. M. Biggar, attorney general Cross. Norman McKenzie, K.C., Regina, is watching the interests of J. K. Cornwall, whose role was challenged on the grounds that he was a member of the company H. A. Robson, K.C., Winnipeg, represents the Waterways company, and B. Bennett, assisted by H. H. Farley, represents the insurgents.

At the outset, Mr. Robson, K.C., took exception to the appearance of Mr. Bennett on the ground that his cross-examination would be an attempt to investigate the ulterior purposes of the proceedings for the ulterior purposes. Mr. Bennett pointed out that the resolution appointing the commission gave the right to hear any counsel to the public interest and he asserted that the sixteen insurgents represented public interests.

Mr. Biggar claimed the appearance of Mr. Bennett was a reflection on the counsel appointed by the commission.

The commission upheld Mr. Bennett the chairman stating they deemed it unwise to interfere with the cross-examination of any counsel present in order that the public may be satisfied that the investigation was complete.

Mr. Robson announced positively that President Wm. Clark would appear personally to testify.

The secretary, A. D. Harris, produced the files as produced in the house and as he had indexed them file "A," the attorney general's departmental file, file "B," that of the treasury department, file "C," that of the public works department, file "D," including miscellaneous correspondence, while file "E" included mortgages and agreements.

Premier Rutherford brought down two letters he had received since the legislative adjournment, also the original of Mr. Cushing's letter to him on October 7th last, and swore that to the best of his knowledge, these were all the documents on his files.

M. J. McLeod, deputy provincial treasurer and clerk of the Executive Council, brought down two letters he had received since the legislature adjourned and swore that those were all he knew of.

J. K. Cornwall was asked to produce documents and correspondence relating to his connection with the Athabasca syndicate and the Great Waterways and swore that all his correspondence had been turned over to his solicitor.

J. C. Trowbridge, assistant clerk of the executive council, produced copies of letters and telegrams written to him from New York by M. J. McLeod and swore that these were all he had or knew about.

Attorney General Cross produced his personal files of letters between himself and Clark and Minty, and swore that those were all he had knowledge of.

R. R. Bennett severely cross-examined all of these witnesses but secured no more than their oath that they had produced all the documents they had any knowledge of. Mr. Bennett produced the fact in his cross-examination of the Premier that the Premier had made no personal investigation of his files before bringing them to the legislature to see that all letters were there. He had merely asked McLeod and Woods to bring down all documents.

The afternoon session was devoted, as was the morning session, to examining witnesses with a view to securing all the documentary evidence possible relating to the A. and G. W. Several witnesses were examined and there was no prying deeply into matters than necessary to learn if all

documents had been produced that could be.

S. B. Woods Examined
S. B. Woods, ex-deputy attorney general, was the first witness and he explained to the best of his ability how the files were short of various letters and telegrams. Some telegrams had been received late by him and some had been telegraphed to his home and he had telephoned some of the replies. The letter speaking of the agreement between Morgan and Clark was in reference to a certain clause in the agreement which Clark had shown him in the Alberta hotel in Edmonton. Mr. Woods said he thought he was the only member of the government who had ever seen this agreement. He admitted to sending a letter from Minty and destroying it. This was about February 10th or 12th of this year. The letter was a public document, but said that Clark had a copy of the letter and can produce it if he desires, said Mr. Woods.

J. A. Thom, private secretary for the attorney general, followed. He testified that all of the private Clark and Minty files of the Hon. C. W. Cross were down and that the files had never to his knowledge been tampered with.

C.P.R. Telegraph Files
Supt. McMillan, of the C. P. R. telegraph, was next called and explained to the commission that owing to the rule of secrecy of the telegraph offices he did not wish to show any more telegrams than were necessary. He said that the subpoena which had been served on the local manager was a broad one and embraced all business carried on by certain people between 1908 to ten months ago had been destroyed as was the rule of office.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Johnston, counsel for the commission, decided to go to the telegraph office and personally look over the files to pick out such telegrams as are relevant to the inquiry now being conducted.

Mr. Walsh then said that after evidence was taken tomorrow there would probably be an adjournment for a week or longer, at least a week, in order to allow himself and Mr. Johnston to examine the telegrams.

After that, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Goddard will be examined with regard to the discovery or the locating or production of more documents. Mr. Cushing is now east; Mr. Goddard, who is sort of secretary for the A. and G. W., is ill in Winnipeg, where no one knows, though Mr. Minty says he can locate him tomorrow if someone will give him definite instructions or information as to just when Mr. Clarke will be called upon to testify. At the morning session Premier Rutherford, Attorney General Cross, M. J. McLeod, Deputy Treasurer, J. K. Cornwall, M.P.P. for Peace River, J. Trowbridge, secretary to the executive council, were examined and all said they had supplied all documents they had to the commission.

The Exodus
Quebec, March 24--Several members of the legislature were surprised today by the statistics from the federal agent of colonization showing that during the year 1909 at least 19,000 people have left their homes in the rural districts of the province of Quebec, the great majority of whom left the province altogether. The starting

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