

house—that it was black earth. He says that he knew it was going there—that he passed by and saw it there. I next come to the evidence of Thomas Bonnville, which will be found at page 468. When Mr. Ellis was appointed Superintendent of the Welland Canal he brought this man with him from Prescott, and gave him a position on the canal, where he receives a salary of \$47 per month. This Bonnville acted as Mr. Ellis' cook. He says that he was away twice, by Mr. Ellis' order, cooking in Mr. Ellis' camp, say twenty days in all, during which time he was paid as if working on the canal. There was another lock-tender also who was rowing Mr. Ellis about and helping Bonnville. That is the way Mr. Ellis is spending his time when we are paying him; that is the way Mr. Ellis is spending the public money and neglecting his duty. When this evidence was brought out the commissioner remarked that he did not think that it was anything extraordinary that Mr. Ellis should take some holidays, considering the length of time he had been on the canal. How much did the commissioner know about the time that Mr. Ellis was away from his duties, and how much did he do to get at the facts during the investigation? George Nicholson, whose evidence appears at page 510, says he worked seven weeks in all at Mr. Ellis' house, and was paid by Mr. Ellis for four weeks. For the other three weeks he was paid at the pay office as having worked for the Government. He says that Mr. Ellis sent him there to work, and that he received \$2 per day. He says he did a little of everything under Mr. Ellis' orders, and Mr. Fallon. Now, who is this Mr. Fallon? He is an architect from Toronto, who was brought there to do something at the canal office, but the greater part of the time he was employed working at Mr. Ellis' house. I did not care to put the public to the expense of bringing Mr. Fallon from Toronto as a witness, because that sort of thing was going on all the time, as is proved by the other witnesses. Nicholson says that he signed the pay-rolls like all the rest for the time that he was employed at Mr. Ellis' house. I now come to the pontoon which was built under contract by Mr. Miller. George Irving, at page 550 of the evidence, says that he worked on the pontoon for a day and a-half and got paid by the Government; that he helped Johnson to load a

load of stone for the band hall at Port Dalhousie, and got his pay from the Government.

I wish to explain about this pontoon that Mr. Miller had a contract from the Government to build it, but the evidence goes to show that men employed on the canal and paid for their time by the Government did a great deal of work on this pontoon.

I did not get half of the evidence I should have elicited in connection with that charge, because some of the men who had been employed on the pontoon were evidently smuggled down to the Cornwall Canal. The Chief Engineer is very seldom able to spend any time on the Welland Canal, having so many important duties to attend to here and at other places, and his subordinates on the canal take advantage of his absence to enrich themselves at the expense of the country. Mr. Miller, in addition to the contract for the pontoon, had a contract to repair Mr. Demare's house. Mr. Ellis, Mr. Demare and Mr. Miller went through the house and agreed upon the repairs and improvements to be made. Mr. Ellis made out the specifications which Mr. Miller accepted, but what do we find? That the men who did that work under Mr. Miller's orders received their pay as if working for the Government. I find the following in the Sessional Papers of 1889, at page 170 (No. 49 d.) :—

“ To Roger Miller, Port Dalhousie :

“ Taking down floors, partitions, stair and doors of overseer's house, Port Dalhousie ; removing mud and decayed flooring, laying in 160 feet drain from same to harbor, concreting floor, building cellar, renewing floors, partitions, stairs, doors, &c., throughout, re-arranging windows and door openings, putting in new sash and doors, taking down old stone chimney and building new brick one, repairing outside blinds, plastering, painting, &c., papering, as per agreement, \$500.

“ Taking out decayed floor of adjoining lock-master's house and mud under concreting, and relaying new floor, laying 160 feet drain from same to harbor, taking off old and putting on new plastering and ceiling, making new window openings and putting in new sash frames and blinds, taking out other decayed sashes and fitting with new, painting and papering where required, as per agreement, \$135.

“ Taking out floor, partition, stairs, doors of old collector's office, and converting into additional dwelling accommodation for overseer, removing vault and brick division wall and rebuilding in proper position, making new window, opening and fitting with new sash and blinds, renewing of old sashes, fitting storm sash, repairing blinds, removing old chimney, building new one and plastering, painting and papering throughout, as per agreement, \$400.

“ Painting outside overseer's house and 12

pairs blinds \$ 45 00