

*The Chairman:—*

W. H. GRIFFIN, Esq., Deputy Postmaster-General for Canada, was also in attendance and gave under oath his evidence as follows:—

Q. Mr. Macdonald, formerly Postmaster-General, gave instructions that the printing of the Post Office Department in New Brunswick should be transferred to the *Freeman* soon after the formation of the present Government?—It was done by letter of the 20th of November.

Q. Do you remember the instructions given by Mr. Macdonald to the Inspector?—I cannot exactly recall how my knowledge came. I spoke to the Lieutenant-Governor on his taking office as Postmaster-General, telling him what the arrangements were for printing the work in the Maritime Provinces, and asking his instructions, and he said he would let me know in a few days. A letter was written in consequence of his decision, and the Inspector was directed by this letter to give two-thirds of the printing to the St. John's *Freeman*, and one-third to the St. John's *Globe*.

Q. How long did this arrangement continue?—That lasted I think until some time in the February following, and then the Inspector was directed to give the whole of the printing to the *Freeman*.

Q. For what reason?—I do not know, except that that was the Postmaster-General's desire.

Q. What was done about prices?—There was some difficulty for the first few months. The accounts were all audited by me, and paid by me, and the prices were regulated by the prices we paid previously, and I think there was considerable difficulty. There were discussions about what the prices should be. There is always a difficulty in comparing the prices of work done in different quantities and in different places. We had a schedule of prices drawn up by the Queen's Printer. It was assented to by the parties doing the printing in both the Maritime Provinces. That was some time in June or July following. I don't think in any case up to that time we paid more than we had paid previously. My impression is that the schedule was in some cases more, and in some cases less, but on the average less.

Statement of amounts paid to several newspapers for Post Office printing was here handed to the Chairman.

Q. Do you know who are the proprietors of these papers?—No, but I can find out who gave the receipts.

Q. You spoke of two letters from the Department, the first written in November, 1873, giving instructions that the New Brunswick printing should be given to two newspapers, and a subsequent letter altering these instructions, and ordering that the printing should be given to the *Freeman* alone; are these letters in existence?—Copies of them are in the letter-books, and the originals are in the possession of the Inspector.

Q. You say that there was at first some considerable trouble about the prices? Did you discuss the case with any one?—Only through the Inspector. The accounts came through the Inspector, and he certified as to the quantity that had been delivered, and that the work was suitably done.

Q. Do you know with whom the discussions took place on the part of the printers?—No; you may see that the accounts themselves have corrections in them made with red ink. We did not pay the full prices charged in all cases.

Q. These discussions took place then in St. John with some one representing the *Freeman*?—Yes; with the Inspector.

Q. Who that party was you do not know?—No.

Q. Will the papers or the letters show?—No.

Q. Did you state that the schedule was assented to?—It was assented to, but how that took place I don't think there is anything to show. The schedule was sent to the Inspector with a letter, saying that no other prices would be admitted.

Q. Was there any correspondence with anybody else on this subject?—We did not deal with any one but the Post Office Inspector. There may, however, have been some correspondence with Messrs. Chubb in regard to paper.