

The Colossal Burden of Relief!

The Deputy Minister Luoidly Explains Financial Transactions.

CAMP SUPPLIES AND ROSSING MACHINES.

When the enquiry opened yesterday afternoon, Mr. Turner was recalled to the stand and the examination re the Curran Logging Contract was again taken up. A list of the supplies sold to the department in connection with this contract was put in evidence. The total was \$26,734.91. Amongst the high line suppliers was H. J. Brownrigg for \$4,723.67. Others were as low as \$121. Witness did not know any details as to prices paid. The supplies to the Curran camp, however, were as follows:

H. J. Brownrigg	\$4,723.67
P. G. House & Co.	3212.12
Baby Sons & Co.	2487.97
J. B. Orr & Co.	1683.71
J. M. Brown	1637.15
A. E. Worrall	1423.83
Nicholls, Inkpen Co.	1410.55
W. R. Aylward	1249.21
T. J. Malone	1141.80
K. Ruby	1087.84
Sheer Bros.	1069.83
Fuzhishons	950.15
I. J. Quigley	783.40
Boring Bros. Ltd.	680.34
J. J. Callahan & Co.	618.29
J. M. Curran	506.09
Dr. Stafford & Son	313.79
T. B. Doyle	292.00
J. J. Rossiter	233.00
Rev. Fr. Rawlins	208.23
Levi Diamond	195.66
Thos. Curran	188.00
E. J. Wadden	121.00
C. T. Richards	275.53
Sundry small amounts	244.35
Total	\$26,734.91

Shown a cheque of \$38.50 to order of Nolan attached to an account from the Reid Nfd. Co., witness said he did not know what he was held the amount for. It was probable these were attached to the wrong voucher he said. In reference to the horses and equipment purchased by the Minister in reference to this logging operation, it was shown that \$1,947.30 was paid for 21 horses. Their equipment was billed at \$3,721. The wages bill was \$30,590.00. The total cost of camp and operation was listed at \$81,129.20. In return for the expenses, \$2,261 cords of wood were cut. Of this quantity 830 cords were pilgrops.

COMMISSIONER—It appears there was a pretty good loss on this operation.

MR. TURNER—Yes, quite a large loss. The witness said that the wood available was shipped to Grand Falls last summer when shipments were going on it was found there were only 2 or 3 thousand cords to ship. Witness said the wood could not have been moved if it were there in the first instance, as it was an unwhimsical place. He further said there was no independent scale of the cut before shipment began. According to the witness, the camping outfit valued at \$10,000 was taken over by Curran at a reduction of 50%. He has been debited with the amount, but did not pay. He is also debited with a number of horses. According to the account, Curran is credited with \$80,000 against the expenditure of \$80,000. This was the value of 2,734 cords of wood shipped before Jan. 1923 and the 2,000 cord shipped to Grand Falls in the clean up. The Department has a claim against Curran for \$1 or \$10,000 for the equipment. According to witness he has gone into insolventy. The Commissioner said it appeared to be a very unprofitable operation for the Government. Referring to the Goodyear Camp operations at Skull Hill, it was shown that \$17,232 had been paid for wages and for horses and equipment, \$28,456 was paid. The supplies were purchased from the same people as in the Curran Contract, viz:—

H. J. Brownrigg	\$4,908.94
Exploits Valley, Royal Stores	3723.10
I. J. Quigley	3119.97
A. E. Worrall	2685.76
M. F. Aylward	1629.65
K. Ruby	1424.80
M. Pike & Son	912.28
P. G. House & Co.	636.94
T. J. Malone	611.04
J. Squires	577.80
Wm. Evans	440.99
Blackler & Wallace	384.25
Boring Bros. Ltd.	320.49
C. P. Lester	222.30
Dr. Stafford & Son	212.95
M. A. O'Brien	150.00
J. B. Goodyear	66.10
Nicholls, Inkpen Co.	30.47
W. A. Hayes	163.99
H. King	187.23
H. Kearney	194.78
Sundry small amounts	212.64
Total	\$34,127.25

The returns in wood amounted to 4,734 cords valued at \$37,500. The loss on the operation is \$19,000. Goodyear has a counter claim of \$8,000 for working less \$1,300 which represent

the value of the equipment he took over. Referring to Moore's operations, the wages cost \$42,200 other supplies, horses and general equipment cost \$77,700. Witness said he had no proof that these supplies had reached the camp. The supplies were the same as in other cases:

H. J. Brownrigg	\$3,975.86
S. G. Paour	3257.33
Murphy & Bambrick	3239.44
P. M. O'Neill	3196.00
Harvey & Co. Ltd.	2171.83
M. J. Healey	1750.00
J. B. Orr, Co. Ltd.	1699.84
A. Parsons	1242.31
W. P. Aylward	1242.31
L. O'Keefe	1137.70
P. G. House & Co.	1032.12
J. Parsons	1021.44
M. J. Kent	981.65
J. Squires	883.20
A. Taylor	717.69
Nicholls, Inkpen Co.	488.68
C. P. Lester	459.00
Cornall & Mears	434.78
Blackler & Wallace	315.24
M. J. Murphy	299.25
F. J. Wadden	297.50
C. Truscott	284.00
Peter O'Mara	265.50
Rev. Fr. Rawlins	244.21
A. Reid	233.88
Peter Joy	228.30
F. Glasco	184.82
B. Garland	138.00
J. P. Kavanagh	163.35
J. J. Rossiter	148.61
W. F. Whittle	123.25
45 Sundry amounts under \$100.00	1525.68
Total	\$41,093.63

COMMISSIONER—They are all very much the same. They all start with Brownrigg. The net loss on this operation was \$19,000. There were produced 10,000 cords of wood, and including the amount realised from the sale of camp equipment the total receipts were \$36,429.

MR. TURNER stated that he had a note showing that 100 horses had been purchased for the different operations and asked how were they disposed of.

MR. TURNER explained that some were returned to the Model Farm, but the value of all was included in the loss on operations.

Asked who was Thos. Byrne, witness said he had charge of store at Twin Lake under Contractor Moore. He was paid at the rate of \$150 per month. According to a letter from him to Dr. Campbell, he advised putting in a system to check up the camp supplies. The system was not adopted. The equipment at the Moore camp was disposed of May 18th, 1923. The accounts showed that \$5,937 was realised. Eleven horses were sold for \$390.00. The top notch price was \$40 and the lowest \$25. (These animals when purchased for this camp averaged \$200 each.) Referring to relief work on the Peninsula of Avalon under James, the witness said the total cost was \$20,000. Very little of the wood was sold and the loss on this account could not be estimated.

The next contract referred to was in relation to Rossing contracts under Charles Bryant. The agreement made in May, 1923 was read. The witness said this Rossing contract was to comply with conditions of another contract to supply Rodgers, an American, with a certain class of wood. COMMISSIONER read a telegram from Bryant to the Minister as follows: "Starks must have other instructions from Trading Co. This contract was in my name, but was for the Company which have handled same from start."

(Sgd.) C. BRYANT.

WITNESS—There is no question about the Union Trading Company being connected with that contract. COMMISSIONER—It was their contract?

A—Yes.

A—A number of letters from Sir Wm. Coaker to Dr. Campbell in reference to the contract were next read.

MR. TURNER—Under this contract with Bryant was there any provision about what was to be paid on any quantity below the 20,000 cords?

A—I don't know anything about that.

Q—There seems to be a penalty that if he paid out \$10,000 he was to get it back.

COMMISSIONER—The contractor undertakes to raise 20,000 cords and provide 20,000 on the bank within 100 feet of high water mark in the different harbours and places. It would be no fault of his if the cords were not there. He makes the condition there in paragraph 3, so that if he was kept from working he was to be paid just the same. That is what he claims there.

THE WITNESS explained that there were seven Rossing machines. Five of these were imported by Bryant and

taken over later by the Government. Two were paid for by the Government when imported.

COMMISSIONER—Under this contract Bryant had to find the machinery?

A—Yes.

MR. WINTER—Was Bryant charged with the price of the two machines?

A—No.

COMMISSIONER—He had the use of them? But the wear and tear of these came out of the Government's pocket and it ought to have come out of his or his principals.

A letter from Sir Wm. Coaker, July 18th, 1922, was put in evidence and after reading it the COMMISSIONER said it looked like a suggestion that the Government should buy three machines, and there was a proposal also that if the machines were purchased by the Government, the department was going to be allowed 25 cents per cord for their use.

The witness explained that as previously stated two of the machines had been bought by the Government. Regarding the allowance of 25 cents per cord for their use, Mr. Turner said he never heard of the suggestion until that moment. Gasoline, kerosene oil and equipment in relation to this Rossing contract were admitted duty free.

MR. WINTER next questioned the witness re the sealers to tally the wood roased, and correspondence as follows was produced:—

Dear Doctor—The bearer is Garland Bannister who Mr. Coaker wishes to take the job that Mr. Bourne had last year in connection with Rossing of pulpwood.

COMMISSIONER—Bourne was one sealer and was Garland Bannister another?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER (reads)—Bourne is Garland Bannister when Mr. Coaker and Dr. Campbell have arranged to take Bourne's job. Kindly discuss matter with him.

And then the 30th of March from Minister of Agriculture and Mines: This is to notify you that you have been appointed Sealer and at the rate of \$80 per month, \$40 allowance for board, take up duty from this date.

Another lot of telegram in reference to sealers were read, and at the conclusion Mr. Winter questioned if all the appointments were made on the recommendation of Sir Wm. Coaker.

COMMISSIONER—He was asked to recommend apparently.

MR. WINTER—I presume you knew at the Department this contract was with the Fishermen's Union Trading Company?

A—Generally yes.

Q—And that Sir William Coaker was head of that concern?

A—Yes.

MR. WINTER—This Rossing went on for about two years; have you a record of the amount of wood roased?

A—I have not the exact figure here but somewhere in the neighborhood of 18,000 cords, that is roased and clean peeled.

COMMISSIONER—There was no failure on the part of the Department to produce the wood as promised?

A—No.

MR. WINTER—Then the contract is still going on is it, Mr. Turner?

A—Yes.

Q—Have you any record of what it has cost the Government?

A—Somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$91,000.

Q—That is what it has cost the Government to roas this wood?

A—To roas, move the machinery, collect the wood, according to contract and letter.

COMMISSIONER—The contract rate was \$2.25?

A—Plus half moving expenses.

COMMISSIONER—The contract was \$2.25; 18,000 cords at \$2.25 would be about \$49,500 or something like that so that half of the \$91,000 or something less than that has been for roasing as originally provided for, and the remainder \$44,000 for the expenses or half the expenses of moving the machines, etc. Those expenses seem quite a lot, don't they?

A—Very heavy.

MR. WINTER—There was an arrangement made later on between Bryant and the Department?

A—For the purchase of the original five Rossing outfits.

Q—The Department took over five machines and paid \$5,000 and they had already advanced \$5,000 so that made \$10,000?

A—Yes.

Q—Was that given for machines only?

A—Rossing machines, saws and outfits.

COMMISSIONER—You took over the machines belonging to the Trading Company?

A—For \$10,000, the first \$5,000 was included in the \$5,000 cheque put in last now.

COMMISSIONER—Why did you buy those machines, was the Department going into some other operation?

A—Not that I know of.

COMMISSIONER—What was the idea of purchasing the machines?

A—I do not know anything about what led up to the purchasing. I was instructed by the Minister that the machines were purchased for \$10,000 and to pay the balance of \$5,000.

MR. WINTER asked if the machines were turned over to the Government, and was told that they were left in the possession of Mr. Bryant. Since February last and up to October the Union Trading Company had been using them. To the Commissioner the witness said they had not paid anything for their use, nor had they been charged anything.

MR. WINTER—(Produces papers) The correspondence in those papers may throw some light on it.

COMMISSIONER—The first I had better look is the cheque and receipt.

COMMISSIONER—That is a letter (reads letter). This allegation says that the Department had not found the contractor the proper amounts of wood?

A—We do not admit it.

COMMISSIONER—Here is one to Dr. Campbell from W. P. Coaker in connection with the Rossing operations which has reference to the advance of \$4,000.00. Then Mr. Russell writes again on February 7th before the purchase was complete. Apparently from those the first \$5,000 was not in respect of machinery at all?

A—It was not. In the first place it was an ordinary advance, afterward applied to the purchase of machinery.

COMMISSIONER—Then on January 27th Coaker proposed you should buy the machinery for \$10,000 and leave that \$5,000 as part payment?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—If you did that it must have been taken in satisfaction of any claims they might have for not having been properly supplied with wood?

A—Up to that date.

COMMISSIONER—Then the second \$5,000 was paid on February 19th and the machines became the property of the Department.

A—That is the position.

COMMISSIONER—That seems to show what was the nature of that transaction. It does not explain why after the machines had become the property of the Department they were worked without any charge being made.

A—They have been sold now to another party.

COMMISSIONER—When was that?

A—Within the last month I should think.

MR. WINTER—Do you know what they got for them?

A—About \$5,000 or \$4,000.

Q—For five machines?

A—For the seven.

Before adjournment, Mr. Winter stated that Mr. McKay desired to be heard. Arrangements were accordingly made to call him on Monday. The session adjourned at 5 p.m. until Monday at 10.30.

Buy Candy from the "Girls of long ago" Society for Protection of Animals show at Casino Theatre, Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets at Hutton's. Feb 16, 11

Our Dumb Animals

REPORT CHIEF AGENT S.P.A. FOR WEEK ENDING Feb. 15TH.

Chief Agent Condensed Condition of Water St.

Requested to humbly put to death dogs for residents of Circular Road and Golf Avenue; also two cats for a lady on Howley Avenue, who contributed to the funds of the Society, and another for a lady on Rennie's Mill Road, one on Alexander Street, and one on Monkstown Road. Put four horses off the street for temporary treatment. I have been asked by horse owners all over the city to try and have Water Street put in a better condition. I do not know in my experience as a truckman on Water St. if I have ever seen the streets in a worse condition than they are at present. I have appealed to the Council and Road Inspector. The Council claim that the Street Car people are responsible for the condition of the Street at the present time. The gutches along the Southside of Water Street are really dreadful. Several accidents have happened during the week. Loads of fish and flour have been capsized in the street. I have seen horses breaking shafts and whiffles trees. I understand from the Council that the Street Car people are responsible for keeping the street in better condition and removing the snow on both sides of the street. As the Truckman's Union pay over fifteen hundred dollars yearly for horse taxes, besides the amount paid by cabmen and expressmen, surely we should have something done for it. I do hope that some arrangement will be made to have the street in better condition quickly. As the Society needs funds, Mrs. Walter Monroe and Mrs. Herbert Outerbridge have arranged for a dramatic entertainment in the Casino next Tuesday and Wednesday. I ask all friends of the dumb beasts to kindly secure their tickets at Hutton's, as per advertisement, and encourage the objects I am working for. Phone all complaints to 652.

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