TIMBER INQUIRY WAS COSTLY BUSINESS, SAYS R. T. HARDING

Crown Counsel Tells How He Financed Investigation Himself.

WHERE MONEY WENT

Former Crown Counsel R. T. Harding appeared before the public accounts committee of the legislature yesterday to give evidence in connection with a payment made to him of $50,000 during the progress of the timber inquiry. He explained that he had spent $25,000 of his own money without any arrangement with the government; said his disbursements for the timber inquiry were over $70,000; that his own bill for services will be about $12,000; admitted having paid one Rochester $33,000 or more, but wouldn't say that Rochester's services had served the ends of one Callahan, nor would he admit knowledge that Callahan was an employe of Backus. Mr. Harding told of having introduced Backus to Premier Drury.

Friend of Treasurer.

Mr. Harding further testified he dissolved partnership with H. H. Dewart in 1919. Prior to coming to Toronto he practiced in Stratford and knew Hon. Peter Smith, the provincial treasurer. He was surprised when asked to act on the timber probe.

It was in December, 1919, said witness, that he had a retainer from Callahan. It was not in writing. Callahan was his private client and he did not think it was fair for the public accounts committee to discuss Callahan's affairs. Mr. Harding said he had appeared before the cabinet to make representations regarding complaints concerning the department of lands, forests and mines.

"In substance, what I said before the cabinet—" began Mr. Harding.

"I cannot permit you to say what happened before the council," said Chairman Curry.

"Is the chairman directing this inquiry or assisting the witness?" asked Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Harding again refused to say where he got the information.

"You are the nimblest-witted chap I have met for a long time," said Mr. Ferguson.

"Let me shake hands with you," said Mr. Harding, who then admitted that he had derived most of his information from political friends.

Government Paid Him.

Explaining the item of $50,000 in the accounts, Mr. Harding said he had to engage accountants. He spent $25,000 of his own money, gave the government a receipt, spent another $25,000 and then got another cheque for $25,000.

"I made no arrangements with anybody, except that I said to Peter, 'I want some money.'" said Mr. Harding.

"Who is Peter?" asked Mr. Curry.

"The provincial treasurer."

"Do you mean to say you went ahead and spent $25,000 of your own money without any arrangement?"

"Yes."

The $50,000, Mr. Harding said, represented all he had received towards cost of employing experts, accountants and traveling expenses. It did not include anything for entertainment. He had paid $2,000 each to the two judges conducting the inquiry. Witness said he paid all the disbursements, including J. M. McEvoy. As near as he could tell, the actual disbursements paid out by him totaled $71,000, not including his own fees, with the exception of $2,000 on account. Four or five accounts are still outstanding.

"What is your own account?"

"My account will be taxed."

"What is your estimate?"

"I have no estimate."

Charge by Day.

"Don't trifle with us, please," said Mr. Ferguson. "Here you have been engaged on the biggest job you ever had in your life, surely you know what you're going to charge."

"I am going to charge on a per diem basis."

"At what rate."

"I am thinking of charging $50 per day for preparation and $100 per day in court."

"Approximately there will be $6,000 coming to you for preparation and $6000 for your work in court?"

"About that."

"And these must be added to the disbursements amounting to $71,000?"

"Yes."

"And there are more accounts to come in?"

"Yes."

"How much have you paid Rochester (the man who made the resale of the Shevlin-Clarke berth)?"

"Over $20,000."

"It will amount to more than that?"

"Possibly $33,000 to $35,000."

"How did you get hold of Mr. Rochester?"

"I think Mr. Hurdman recommended him to me."

"He operated in the Fort Frances district?"

"Yes."

"So that Callahan would get all the benefit."

"Oh, no; I would not say that."

Who is Callahan?

"The $35,000 of provincial money was spent while you had a retainer from Callahan to investigate the Shevlin-Clarke Co.?"

"Oh, no."

"Do you mean to say that Callahan has not succeeded and not achieved his purpose thru you?"

"Oh, no."

"Who is Callahan? Is he not an employe of Backus?"

"I don't know that he is."

"Is he not in close communication with Backus?"

"He knew that Backus was then at Queen's Park to secure a timber limit, but he did not know it was the English River limit he was after."

Witness swore that he had never either directly or indirectly had any communication with A. D. George concerning any deal in which E. W. Backus was interested.

"Very well. We will see about it," said Mr. Ferguson.

The committee adjourned until Friday morning, Mr. Harding being instructed to bring along all papers he has under his control.

CHALLENGE LEADER TO NAIL THE HIDES

(Continued From Page 1).

tained him, paid him, and if he did not do what the attorney-general or prime minister wanted him to do he would be dismissed. This is what had taken place. Mr. White's pay had been cut off because he would not do what the government wanted him to do, and very properly, too.

Mr. Ferguson spoke strongly against the government for its failure to instruct its counsel to inquire into crown lands affairs prior to the Conservative regime.

The premier interjected to ask Mr. Ferguson if it would not have been possible for the Conservative party to have conducted an investigation into the crown lands department after they had been in office for 15 years, to look into transactions which they now hint at.

Was Beside Question.

Mr. Ferguson answered that this was beside the question now raised, namely, that the present inquiry should not have confined its investigation into things which had happened during the Conservative regime, but should have gone back to the days of the old Liberal government as well.

It was a public scandal, Mr. Ferguson insisted, that the attorney-general should have asked a member of a former Liberal government to inquire into the administration of a succeeding government. As recently as the last sitting of the commission Judge Latchford had said he had looked into things under the old Liberal regime and had found everything in order. He had prejudged things and practically said, "Come on Ferguson, make your charges. I have looked into things and find nothing wrong."

Paid Over Five Thousand.

In reply, the attorney-general said Peter White had acted before the commission from May to September, and had been paid $5548, on the basis of $125 a day, plus $605 for disbursements.

The commission of inquiry, Mr. Raney maintained, had every possible scope; their activities were not restricted; it was, in short, a wide open inquiry.

Mr. White's tone towards the government in his letter retiring from the case, was resented by the attorney-general as being insolent and truculent, when there was nothing to justify the adoption of such a tone. Mr. White had at any time within his power to inquire into the affairs of the crown lands department under the Liberal regime. He had not done so, altho he could have, had he so desired.

Mr. Ferguson: Why did you not instruct Crown Counsel Harding to make that inquiry also?

Mr. Raney: Listen to the hon. gentleman! First he says Mr. Harding is prosecuting, not prosecuting; now he asks why Mr. Harding had not inquired into affairs during the old Liberal regime.

Proceeding, Mr. Raney declared that, in appointing a judicial commission, the government was actuated simply by a desire to improve a great public department, and now an effort was being made to make it appear as if the government were actuated by partisanship. The government had no object in endeavoring to fix the blame for fraudulent transactions on the Conservative, and not the Liberal administration. The present government had as many Conservative as Liberal followers, and he, himself, had never voted Liberal in Ontario during the last thirty years. The charge of partisanship did not hold.

The Nailing of Hides.

They had all heard about Mr. Ferguson's famous remark about nailing hides of certain people on the fence. This was made some months ago, at the Conservative convention in Massey Hall. Perhaps Mr. Ferguson was holding his fire. But, then, only last week, he had repeated the remark at a banquet in his honor, and said he would later make good his remark.

"Let not him who puts his armor on boast at him who puts his armor off," cried the attorney-general, pointing his finger straight at Mr. Ferguson.

The Conservative leader, Mr. Raney went on, had much better bring forward facts than make threats.

"I suggest to the hon. member that he come forward and tell the public all about what he knows," said Mr. Raney.

The house had been told by Mr. Ferguson that the timber probe had accomplished nothing, when, as everybody knew, frauds of a colossal nature had been disclosed. It was now common knowledge that public opinion had been demoralized in the north country, and that the Ten Commandments had been forgotten by certain men guilty of perpetuating frauds in the expectation of making millions. It was a noble thing for the judges to go into the country and get information from employes who did not want to give evidence.

May Be More to Come.

The attorney-general also observed that the work of the timber probe was not over, by any means, yet.

The attorney-general had received a letter from Peter White, who had been appointed to assist in getting at the truth before the timber inquiry, in which he had said that the failure of the investigation must rest on those who initiated this. Such an observation was astounding coming from a man who had been appointed to aid the inquiry, and the government did not proposed to be talked to that way by a man whom it was paying to aid in making the inquiry into the affairs of a government department.

Authorities on Procedure.

During the debate, Mr. Ferguson, who frequently interjected with questions, spoke at too great a length to suit the prime minister. When that gentleman objected, Mr. Ferguson insisted he was not violating any rules of the house, and was perfectly in order.

"We marvel," retorted the prime minister, "at the ability to conduct the affairs of the house."

Z. Mageau (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls) defied Hon. Mr. Ferguson to go after the hides he threatened to nail on the fence. When the member did that, he would find Mr. Mageau waiting to question him.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson was also criticized for discriminating against the small lumber dealers of the province. Mr. Mageau said the former minister, in compelling one lumber man to put up a bond for $60,000, while in another, exactly the same, he only required a bond for $9000, was dishonest and unscrupulous.

Mr. Ferguson denied knowledge of the incident, and secured a retraction of the expression "dishonest and unscrupulous," from the member for Sturgeon Falls.

This closed the debate for the time being, and the house rose at 6 o'clock.

COUNSEL WRANGLE AT HASTINGS PROBE

(Continued From Page 1).

"sudden" government and he said he knew nothing of this except from hearsay. In cross-examination, he was asked what he knew about the whiskey ring mentioned by the attorney-general to the deputation which waited on him asking for the reinstatement of Magistrate Hastings. Addie said some residents had evidently stocked their cellars, some whose names had been connected in town gossip with the ring.

Stats to Give Names.

Attorney McPherson asked the witness to look over exhibit nine, and give the names of those he referred to, Mr. Counsell, for Mr. Hastings, protested vigorously against this, but the witness sang out the names of F. R. Lalor, M.P.; G. C. Biddle, M. Edgcomb, J. A. Burnes. When he started to give the quantities received by each, Mr. Counsell again protested at the attempt to hold respectable citizens up to the contempt of a certain section of the community, and threw a bomb into the court by stating that a certain prominent citizen of Toronto, a member of the denomination which is pushing the Dunnville inquiry, had received over twenty tons of liquor into his home.

"This man" (giving his name) "now has over $80,000 worth of liquor in his home, and he hasn't been accused of being in a whiskey ring."

Mark Names With "X."

When he recovered from this shock the commissioner rebuked counsel for introducing matters irrevelent to the case and ordered the reference removed from the records. He also suggested that the witness mark the names mentioned with an "X" and he would look over the amounts of shipments later. One of the "X's" received last year 132 cases and twenty barrels. In one shipment he received one hundred cases.

In concluding his testimony Addie said his report to the department was that conditions in Dunnville improved toward the fall. He told the department that, in his opinion, the administration of law was almost like a farce in a picture show. There was applause and smoking in the court room. He saw no evidence of influence of a whiskey or political ring on the magistrate, he admitted.

Says Hastings Too Kind.

Captain G. E. Hurt, ex-imperial officer, said he lived in Dunnville from last September to January, and found Mr. Hastings a good friend. On one occasion he went into Hastings' printing office on business, and heard the crown attorney talking about two cases—in regard to an adjournment in one case, and in regard to a fine in the other. He formed the opinion from Mr. Hastings' replies and actions that the attorney was trying to get the magistrate to do something against his will. He had heard many residents say Mr. Hastings was too kind a man to administer the O.T.A., and that was his opinion. In cross-examination, he stated he believed that Mr. Hastings had weakened under the influence of the lawyer, and expressed surprise when told it was common practice for crown attorneys to consult with the magistrates regarding punishment to be inflicted. He admitted that Dunnville was a great town for whispering and gossiping.

Minister Testifies.

Rev. Mr. West, Presbyterian minister at Dunnville, admitted he and other members of the Ministerial Association had complained about law enforcement in the town and stated he signed the petition for an inquiry. He considered David Hastings as an honest and upright private citizen, but would not express any opinion of him as a magistrate. He had heard him try only one case, an O.T.A. case, and he did not approve the finding. Witness, however, did not think Mr. Hastings was influenced by Mr. Lalor, as some alleged, but he did not think there was as much respect for the Dunnville police court as there should be. Intoxication and pool rooms were too prominent in the life of the town and on account of the cleavage between those who favored liquor and those opposed, there was an absence of community spirit. He said the "presence of many factory workers, who liked excitement, was probably one of the causes that made Dunnville appear to be less orderly than some residential towns. The inquiry will likely last all week.

MORRISON CALLS C.M.A. CANADA'S "ONE BIG UNION"

Peterboro, Ont., March 2.—(By Canadian Press).—Declaring that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is the most powerful organization in the Dominion, and referring to it as "the Big Union of Canada," J. J. Morrison, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario last night, at Keene, Ont., made a strong appeal to his hearers for "class consciousness among farmers." Mr. Morrison condemned the "old-line" parties and advised United Farmers to have nothing to do with them. He reviewed the development of the U. F. movement in Ontario and its extension to all parts of the Dominion.

THREE IN SAME FAMILY BENEFIT

Saranac Farmer Says Tanlac Has Restored His Wife, Daughter and Himself.

"This is the medicine that restored my wife, my daughter and myself, all to good health, and I don't intend to be without it," said N. M. Bartlett, a well-known farmer residing at Saranac, Mich.

"I am glad of the chance to say something good for Tanlac. We have had different kinds of sickness in my family for a number of years and we tried a lot of different medicines, but Tanlac is ahead of them all. My wife suffered with rheumatism in her arms, legs and shoulders for several years. Her housework was more than a burden upon her, and when she undertook to do it she would suffer for days afterwards. Her joints would swell up almost twice their normal size, and she could hardly get around. Her appetite was poor, and what she ate didn't seem to give her any strength.

"Well, I read so much about Tanlac I decided she ought to try it, so I got her two bottles and it certainly proved to be a fine thing for her. She is in fine condition now, never has a pain of any kind, has a fine appetite, sleeps well and is doing all her housework without the least trouble. After seeing how it helped her, I decided to try it myself. I suffered an attack of 'flu' last fall which left me in a general run-down condition, and nothing I could get hold of in the way of medicine seemed to help me. But it didn't take very many bottles of Tanlac to fix me up, and now I can work like a horse, and a hard day's work with the plow doesn't bother me at all. Then my daughter took Tanlac, and it also helped her wonderfully. It sure is remarkable how Tanlac built us up, and since then we wouldn't think of being without it."

Tanlac is sold in Toronto by Tamblyn Drug Stores, and by an established agency in every town.

VOTE IS EXPECTED IN COMMONS TODAY

(Continued From Page 1).

of representation in the house of commons. Leeds was unrepresented because Sir Thomas White had accepted an office of emolument under the crown. St. Antoine division of Montreal was unrepresented because the resignation of Sir Herbert Ames as a member for that riding had been suppressed. He quoted from an interview given by Sir Herbert Ames last July, in which he said that his resignation at that time was in the hands of Mr. Speaker.

Of Hon. Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Lapointe said that he had been on every side of every public question during the past five years. Quoting from Mr. Calder's speech in Regina, in which the minister said that he had never really studied the tariff question before 1917, and while he had talked tariff as a matter of politics, he had done so like a parrot. "The honorable gentleman," continued Mr. Lapointe, amid uproarious laughter, "is still a parrot, but he has found a new master."

Mr. Pardee of West Lambton moved the adjournment of the debate.

Argues for Dissolution

Ottawa, March 2.—(By Canadian Press.)—"Those who pretend to rule this country," dramatically exclaimed Ernest Lapointe in the house this afternoon, "have no right to represent it at the coming imperial conference, and we shall not consider ourselves bound either legally or morally by any of the decisions arrived at there." Mr. Lapointe is the leader of French-speaking Liberals from Quebec and now represents the division of Quebec East, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier represented for so long. He was speaking at the time of the conference of overseas premiers called in London next June, and his declaration followed an arraignment of the government's right to remain in office. The opposition, he added, would not be represented at the conference.

Cheered by Liberals again and again, Mr. Lapointe quoted a formidable array of British constitutional authorities to support the opposition demand for a dissolution of parliament. The authority of a government to remain in office was the nation, and when had the present administration received the approval of the electors? "I have not a drop of Anglo-Saxon blood in my veins," he declared, "but I want to see British principles of government prevail in Canada." The majority of the government had fallen from 70 to 20 and perhaps 15, and yet the minister of militia had the "gall" to call Liberals a remnant. "I hurl the mean appellation back in his face," Mr. Lapointe cried out, but here the Speaker intervened.

Mr. Lapointe withdrew the "mean," apologizing that he was still a "tyro" in English—at which the whole house laughed.

Defines Meighen Liberal.

He defined a Meighen Liberal as a "species unknown to zoology and common sense," compared the cabinet with a crazy patchwork quilt, and charged that the government was adopting the humiliating policy of trying to get recruits from its opponents' ranks to postpone the day of shameful defeat."

Today's proceedings were one-sided. Government supporters took no part in the debate, all the speeches coming from the left of the Speaker. Mr. Lapointe was preceded by A. B. Copp of Westmoreland, N.B., who declared that everywhere there was demand for an election. He was followed by Major Andrews, of Winnipeg Centre, who last session crossed from the government benches to "No Man's Land," and by W. A. Buchanan of Lethbridge, who but a few days ago also took his seat in the "land of wilderness." Major Andrews admitted having once been a "neolious free trader." Now, he said, he stood for the protection of Canadian industries. He intended to vote against the King amendment and to support the government. Mr. Buchanan took a different view. He declared his intention of voting for the Campbell sub-amendment and would support the government only on the understanding that it would carry on for purposes of redistribution.

EXPERT CONFUSED IN HYDRO PROBE

Dr. Herdt Refuses Answers Unless Specific Figure Given Him.

Robert McKay, K.C., counsel for pro-Hydro municipalities, managed to score yesterday afternoon at the resumed session of the Hydro radial probe. Dr. L. A. Herdt, professor of engineering at McGill University, was cross-examined by counsel, who succeeded in getting the expert slightly confused, also to qualify some of his statements made at Tuesday's session. The estimates compiled by the Hydro commission showed that 26.8 cents was considered to be sufficient to cover the cost of operation of one car over a distance of one mile. The professor stated, in his opinion, that the cost of operation per car mile woul dbe nearer 35 cents.

Mr. McKay: "Didn't you admit that it was slightly cheaper to operate electric lines than steam lines?"

Witness admitted this.

Mr. McKay: "Well, your figures must be slightly out, for estimates compiled show that the cost of operation thruout Canada of the steam lines is 16.7 cents per car miles. How do you reconcile the two statements?"

Witness: "That was on passenger traffic only."

"No, it wasn't," was the reply. "It was for all kinds of operation."

On being further questioned regarding operation costs, Dr. Herdt stated that he had nothing to say unless specific figures were given him.

Of the five Hydro radial lines, the Toronto-St. Catharines, Toronto and Eastern, Hamilton-Elmira-Guelph, Toronto Surburban and Niagara Central, the doctor said that a sinking fund of one per cent. should be provided, or an extra charge of $456,441 per annum, making a total expected deficit of 711,291 per annum, even if the Hydro estimates of gross earnings were realized. He endeavored to show that in this way, what is termed a surplus, might easily be a deficit.

SIX-YEAR-OLD GIRL HAS LEG FRACTURED

Jumps From Rear of Lumber Wagon and Is Struck by Auto.

Struck by an auto driven by Norman Winters, Lambton Mills, opposite her home late yesterday afternoon, six-year-old Blanche Ball, 22 Symington avenue, received a fracture of the leg. She was removed to her home by Winters, who reported the accident to the police. He was not held.

The little girl, the police say, was stealing a ride on a lumber wagon and jumped from the rear of the wagon directly in the path of Winters' auto. So sudden was her appearance that Winters was unable to avoid the accident.

Work at Abattoir Goes On Without Federal Inspectors

Acting Mayor Maguire is taking up with the federal minister of agriculture the action of the eight government inspectors at the civic abattoir in withdrawing from the plant as a protest against what they termed inferior dining room accommodation. They left their work on Monday and have not yet returned.

W. R. Cornell, the manager of the abattoir, says the city is not obliged to provide dining room accommodation for the inspectors and in any case did not have space at the abattoir for that purpose. He announces that killing will go on without government inspectors, and suggests that it might be well to appoint competent city inspectors to do the work permanently.

URGE CONTINUATION OF TOWN PLANNING ACTIVITY

The executive of the Town Planning and Housing Association held yesterday in Toronto, its first meeting since the recent convention and took steps to urge on the Dominion government the desirability of continuing the town planning activities of the conservation commission even tho the commission should be abolished. The executive also decided to support the London bill now before the legislature amending the planning and development act to give London greater powers in town planning. Members of the executive present were W. H. Breithaupt, Kitchener; R. W. Gladstone, Guelph; A. W. Deacon, Stratford; F. E. Annes, Whitby; W. S. B. Armstrong, and J. P. Haynes, Toronto.

FORUM TENANT BUYS BLOOR STREET PROPERTY

W. H. Shaw has purchased for $65,000 the property at 46 West Bloor street and it is understood he will open his business college headquarters there, having been driven out of the Forum building by fire recently. The vendor was Dr. R. B. Nevitt.

The city architect's department department issued the following building permits:

A. E. LePage, brick dwelling, 50 Glenholme avenue, $7,500; W. H. Cawthra, three-storey brick and stone store, 340 Yonge street, $50,000, for Thornton-Smith Co.; W. H. Christie, dwelling, west side of Linsmore Crescent, near Glebeholme boulevard, $7,000; Mrs. T. English, alterations and additions, 68 Shaftsbury boulevard, $3,500; R. C. Cummings, two detached dwellings, 200-202 Clendennan avenue, $8,000; H. A. Johnston, brick and stucco dwelling, 33 Duart Park road, $55,000; I. M. Walkey, six detached dwellings, 52-62 Armadale avenue, $24,000, and W. I. McGuire, alterations to garage, 85 Jarvis street, $4,000.

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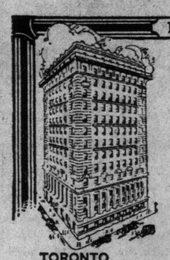

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