

ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPT WAS UNDER FIRE

Spirited Session in Legislature Last Night—Messrs. Pinder and Swim Attack Public Works Administration—Hon. Mr. Morrissey Calls on those Making Attack to Prefer Formal Charges.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 11.—The legislature tonight sat until well on to midnight and when they had adjourned the items of business had all been passed.

Incidental to passing of supply there came the expected clash over public works items when Mr. Pinder of York and Mr. Swim of Northumberland attacked the administration of the public works department and the secretary of the department.

Hon. John Morrissey, as minister of public works, came back at the assailants of his department and in a characteristic defence of his department and of the secretary of his department called upon those who were making the attack to make formal charges against the department and against Mr. Blair.

The result was the liveliest hour that has been seen in the House for many a year. There was a lot of hard hitting, some very pointed statements at times when the speakers were addressing one another while Chairman Munro of the committee on supply called for order.

References were made during the discussion to charges which had been made against Mr. Blair and the investigation which had been conducted by Mr. M. G. Teed, K. C., as a commissioner. Mr. Pinder pointed out that when this report was brought down the minister of public works would have to take the responsibility if the charges were found to be correct, while Mr. Carter closed the episode by drawing the attention of the committee to the fact that it was not proper for the members to be discussing the report of an investigation which had not yet been brought down and was therefore not properly before them. He also declared that it was the duty of members who were making insinuations to make formal charges upon their responsibility as members.

This afternoon notices were sent out for a government caucus which is to be held tomorrow morning and at which a variety of legislative matters are expected to be taken up. Tonight's clashes are expected to have the effect of clearing the atmosphere. It was noticeable during the discussion of public works items of supply that there was no part taken by members of the government and that it was a personal clash between Hon. Mr. Morrissey and members who were assailing him, his administration of his department and his deputy but when Mr. Carter concluded his speech there was general applause from all over the House.

That the deposit of one contractor who tendered for the construction of the uncompleted portion of the St. John Valley Railway has been retained, this tender being the lowest of those submitted, was stated in the legislature by Hon. Mr. Murray this afternoon in answer to an enquiry by Mr. Pelletier of Malawaska.

In reply to other questions in this connection it was stated that the tender of Kennedy & McDonald was returned unopened by the St. John and Quebec Railway Company because it was not received until after the meeting at which the tenders were received had adjourned.

The government has no knowledge of Thomas Cuzzolino making any tender for this work. A tender was received by the St. John and Quebec Railway Company from the Nova Scotia Construction Company.

Thomas Cuzzolino did not have any conference or conferences with the government or with any member of the government on or about November 19, 1915, and the government is advised by the St. John and Quebec Railway Company that he has no interview with Thomas Cuzzolino.

Hon. Mr. Murray in reply to another enquiry by Mr. Pelletier said:

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age dues may be collected. Following on this policy it was thought advisable to employ Mr. Curran to make the investigation in which he was engaged. Inasmuch as the government is advised the regular scalers are competent and reliable men and perform their duties to the best of their ability."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey in reply to Mr. Dugal's inquiry:

1. "What was the total cost of the macadamized road in St. John county from the county line on the Rothesay Road to the overhead bridge crossing the I. C. R.?"

Ans.—"\$6,853.90."

2. "Is the work completed, or is it the intention of the department to continue the construction towards Rothesay and St. John?"

Ans.—"Yes."

3. "What is the length of the road built?"

Ans.—"Five thousand and eighty feet (5,880 feet)."

4. "How much was paid to C. H. Peters & Son for lime rock and other materials?"

Ans.—"\$374.24."

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2. "Was the subsidy \$150.00 per month, and for how many months?"

Ans.—"Answered by No. 1."

3. "Is the department aware how many trips were made each week during the last month of service?"

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