INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES AGAINST CURRIE

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE AT CURRIE HEARING

Much Interest in Enquiry Into Charges By Hon. Dr. Baxter That Speaker of Legislature Defrauded Province in Lumber Scaling Arrangement—Charges Based on Affidavit By Archibald Murchie.

Mr. Murchie, Charles Purvis and Joseph Lapointe Testified Yesterday—Three Other Witnesses To Be Summoned To Stand Today — Enquiry Will Probably Be Transferred To Fredericton Later on.

(Continued from page 1)

and Charles Purvis, who submitted the company's own record of its logging operations for the season of 1916-17 with the result as stated. Mr. Murchie was submitted to a stiff cross-examination by Mr. A. T. Leblanc, M. L. A., who appeared for Mr. Currie, but his statements were not materially shaken.

Three Other Witnesses.

As established later by the company's own records the totals of Mr. Murchie's first scale and the company's record on which its operators were paid tallied very closely.

Tomorrow Mr. Murchie and Mr. Purvis will be recalled and there will be three other witnesses. The sessions in Campbellton may be completed tomorrow night or by Thursday at the latest. Following Campbellton the next session will probably be in Fredericton when Col. Loggie will attend with the crown land departments records. There is much interest in the hearing and the town council chambers where the session is being held was filled all day with an interested audience.

Charles Purvis.

Charles Purvis, accountant of the Continental Lumber Co., was called as the first witness, but he was not present. Mr. Baxter said Mr. Purvis was expected to bring the company's books with him.

Joseph Lapointe.

Joseph Lapointe, a farmer, was then called. He said he was acquainted with both Murchie and Currie and remembered accompanying Murchie to Mr. Currie's office at Charlo. He had no special reason for going, but merely went for the drive. He and Murchie entered the office together. Currie and a man witness did not know were there. He heard Murchie say to Currie that he came to make a settlement in regard to his stumpage. Currie and Murchie went into an inside room and closed the door and witness could not hear the conversation between them.

After half an hour Murchie came out. Murchie had no further conversation with Currie, and witness did not hear Murchie say anything. To Mr. Leblanc witness said he could not recall the exact words used by Murchie to Currie, but knew that in effect he said he came to make a settlement of the stumpage. This completed Mr. Lapointe's evidence.

Archibald Murchie.

Archibald Murchie of River Louison, Restigouche, who made the affidavit containing the charges, testified that he was a lumber scaler and farmer. He was a scaler in 1908 and during a part of 1909. In 1916 and 1917 he was also scaling. His territory included all the waters flowing into Bay Chaleur from Restigouche River to River Louison. Witness had no regulations for the guidance of scalers. He might have had them when he was first appointed. He then explained the general process of timber scaling.

Mr. Baxter asked that the copy sent to the Continental Lumber Co. should be produced and Mr. Leblanc said he did not think the company had it. A certified copy of the return sent by Murchie to the crown land department was produced and placed in evidence.

Counting Method.

Each scaler had a number of counters who counted the logs and the scaler afterwards got the contents. The logs were counted in the woods in the yard where they are brought together and sometimes in the streams it was the duty of the counter to mark the yard after he had counted it. After the counter counted the logs the scaler figured the number required to make 1,000 feet, made an allowance for the culls, estimated the quantity of fir and figured his return from his calculations. All scalers pursued the same system. His report was then made up and sent to the crown land office. A copy of the report was then sent back to the company.

Witness said that the statement lettered "B" and attached to his affidavit was the statement he had sent to the crown land office.

Did Not Represent All.

That statement, Mr. Murchie said, did not represent all the lumber cut by the Continental Lumber Co. and scaled by him. The statement marked "A" did, and between the two there was a difference of more than two million feet. Archie McKay was his counter. He visited the yards himself and made his count for Continental Company the same way as in all other cases. Witness met Mr. Currie on the train coming from Charlo to Campbellton. That was on February 16th, 1917, on nomination day. He had a conversation with him.

Mr. LeBlanc objected, that the witness could not relate this conversation as Mr. Currie was not then a member.

Mr. Baxter—"No, he was only on his way to become one. If Mr. Currie wanted to do wrong prior to his election and continued to do it afterwards any conversation bearing on that should be admitted as evidence."

This view was concurred in by the commissioner, and the witness proceeded.

Mr. Currie spoke about his lumber cut and said he thought it ought to be around 4 1-2 millions. witness also saw Daniel Richards of the Continental Company. Richards said he didn't know anything about the cut as all the scale bills were at Charlo. Richards also told witness that any arrangement made with Currie would be O. K. Witness did not recollect any other conversation ith Mr. Currie between the time of the meeting on the train and his visit to the Continental Lumber Co.'s office at Charlo with Mr. Lapointe. He thought that was early in April.

Visit to Charlo.

Referring to his visit to the Charlo office with Lapointe he said he first met Currie in the outer office, and they had a general conversation. Currie then took him into a private room and closed the door. Currie first started the conversation by saying he should not have anything to do with the scale, Mr. Richards should do it. Witness said Richards had told him to see Currie as he (Richards) did not have the scale bills.

Continuing witness said "Currie said he thought about 4 1-2 millions would be about right for the season's cut, and suggested I should make it about that. I said my estimates were higher than that and it would be hard for me to reduce the scale much below the estimates. I also remarked it would probably be my last year scaling, as there had been a change of government, and I did not want to reduce the scale too much. He said if I used him right the government did not intend to use the axe and by the next election you fellows will be voting for us. Mr. Currie was the first to mention the figures 4 1-2 millions. I told him I would have to leave off names of some contractors. I did not have in the estimate. He told me to please myself as to how I did it, so long as I made the scale about 4 1-2 millions. I did omit six names. The total reduction I made on the Continental Company's scale was 2,165,290 feet. The company actually cut 6,780,852 feet, but the return sent in to the crown land office was more than two million less.

Another Talk.

Witness had another conversation with Curie in March, 1918, when Currie said they were "raising the deuce with him over the matter at Fredericton, and that if you fellows don't keep quwiet we'll land some of you in the penitentiary.' At the time of the conversation in Currie's office he knew that Mr. Currie had already settled with some of the contractors.

To Mr. LeBlanc witness said he had passed an examination prior to his appointment as scaler, and had no difficulty passing it. No one passed him a slip of paper with the answers to the examination questions. He considered himself a competent scaler, but admitted there were lots better. As a scaler it was his duty to get all the logs he could. He knew James Woods, of the Continental Lumber Co. He would not swear that he had not had a conversation with Mr. Woods regarding his job as a scaler, but could not recall it. Witness identified his signature on his affidavit and also the signature of Mr. McAllister before whom the affidavit was sworn. He did not know who prepared the affidavit. He had asked no one to prepare it. He did not remember where he saw the affidavit first whether it was in his house or the post office. He read the affidavit in his house before he took it to McAllister's office. He did not remember who went to McAllister's office with him or who was there. He would not say D. A. Stewart was not there or Charles Henderson. Mr. Stewart might have spoken to him about the charges since they were made, but would not say for sure. He would swear he never showed the affidavit to Arthur Culligan. He had discussed the charges with his counter J. and A. McKay, but could not remember having discussed them with W. S. Montgomery. When he went to Mr. Currie's office he went to see how his scale corresponded with theirs. He considered Mr. Currie was the boss of the job, as he was the member of the legislature and witness wanted to see him about his cut. He had previously settled stumpage with Mr. Currie. The year in question he would absolutely swear that he settled with Mr. Currie. If Daniel Richards swore he settled with him it would not be true. He considered that Daniel Richards was interested in the Continental Lumber Company, but not as manager.. His visit to Mr. Richards' office was not in connection with the Continental Lumber Company's cut, but had to do with the cut of the Tobique Lumber Co. The only time he remembered Mr. Richards talking to him about the Continental Lumber Co.'s cut Mr. Richards said he had no scale bills and did not know what the cut was.

Mr. LeBlanc contended that the witness had already told Mr. Baxter that Mr. Richards had settled stumpage.

Witness said he did not, and when time for adjournment came the stenographer was reading the evidence to decide the point.

Afternoon Session.

Resuming after luncheon Mr. Murchie said Mr. Richards had not told him that the cut of the Continental Lumber Co. would be about 4,500,000 feet. Mr. Richards did tell him that any arrangement made with Mr. Currie would be all right. If Mr. Richards swore otherwise witness would say he was mistaken. Witness would say he was at least five times on the land cut over by the Continental Lumber Company. He went in the woods in the fall of 1916 and would not swear that he sent more than one return of the Continental Lumber Company's cut prior to January 1st, 1917. He sent some reports in the month of January and he did not remember the exact date he went to work. He did not remember how many reports he sent to the crown land office of the cut of the Continental Lumber Company. Scalers were supposed to send in an estimate in January but it might have been February before he got his estimate away.

Monthly Reports.

He sent in all several monthly reports which were correct for the work he had done. He was twice on the ground of part of the Continental Lumber Co. operations. He was in Joe Roy's camp and Thomas Mullally's camp. He had no papers that would give a record of his work for 19116-1917 for he destroyed them after his final returns were in. He produced a copy of the correct returns of the cut of the Continental Lumber Co. He could not swear that the paper he produced had not been out of his possession, and could not remember when it was prepared. The report produced in court was prepared from his counters' books and was made before he had omitted the names of the six operators. After he prepared the statement produced he left in his trunk in his room. He did not remember how long the papers had been in his pocket nor who he showed the papers to. He did not show them to Hon. J. B. M. Baxter or Mr. Montgomery. He did not remember showing them to Mr. Stewart or Mr. Culligan or Rene Richard. The affidavit was prepared from a copy of the papers in court. Mr. Leblanc asked to whom the witness sent the papers for the preparation of the affidavit.

Hon. Dr. Baxter.

Hon. Dr. Baxter said the court could not go into the question as to whom the papers were sent. The statement marked "A" in the affidavit was a correct statement of the lumber he scaled. There might have been jobbers cutting for the Continental Lumber Co., whose names were not on the list of statement "A." To the best of his knowledge all the jobbers named on the list were cutting for the company. He did not remember how many times he went to Joseph Pilkey's camp. He did not go by the camps but by the work. Witness then read a list of the jobbers as contained in the affidavit. The name Paul DesRosier in the affidavit should be Degeau. The error occurred in copying the name. He visited most of the camps. He did not remember having visited Paul DesRosier's camp but was on his landing. He was at Peter Savoy's camp but did not remember who he had seen. When he went to a camp he looked for the logs, not for the jobber. He did not remember who he saw at Herman Gervin's camp or at Joseph Roy's. He surveyed timber in both camps. He did not know Joseph Pelkie and would not swear that he lumbered for the Continental Lumber Co. He got Pelkie's name from his counter but from his memory he could not tell where Pelkie was lumbering. He had no records of his own to show that Pelkie lumbered for the Continental Co. He swore to his affidavit the best of his knowledge from information given by his counter and from information supplied by woodsmen.

Affidavit True.

He would swear his affidavit was true and that he got the name of Joseph Pelkie as lumbering for the Continental Co. He denied that he had tried to get Mr. Currie into trouble and did not remember saying he would land Currie if he had to hang for it or go to the penitentiary. He prepared the final return for the crown lands from his counter's book by his own work and from information he got from camp foremen and others. He would not swear that he did not ask women how much lumber their husbands had surveyed for Currie. He did not remember having done so. His final statement of the lumber cut for the Continental Lumber Co. was prepared from information supplied by his counter and from his own work. That was all he needed. Referring to his visit to Mr. Currie's office he said he went to see if his count agreed with Mr. Currie's. Mr. Currie did not help him make his statement. He could not recall whether the statement shown in court was prepared before or after his interview with Mr. Currie. He knew James Woods but would not swear he did not tell Woods that this was his last year as scaler and he wanted to "knock $500 out of it above his fees." Witness knew a man named Sansom but was not much acquainted with him. He knew two or three men of that name.

He did not remember a conversation with Havelock Sansom on the Tobique. He did not remember telling Sansom that if he (Sansom) gave him a few dollars he could let him off on stumpage. He would not swear that he did not say so.

Election Time

The conversation with Mr. Currie on the train in February, 1916, was the day before nomination day. Witness did not remember all the conversation but he did remember that Currie said his cut would be about 4½ million and witness told Mr. Currie his estimate showed more than that. He had sent in more than one estimate but could not say he sent more than two. Witness then told Currie that he (Currie,) had got him used right by puttin Jack Kerr on the streams to watch him and make reports to the government against him. Witness blamed Kerr for reporting him to the government and told Currie so. He blamed Currie for putting Kerr on the river. Mr. Currie denied the charge and witness believed him. Mr. Richards did not talk to witness before February 24th, 1917 as the Continental Co's. cut and if Mr. Richards said differently he would be wrong.

Destroyed Notes

Regarding the notes from which his final report was made, witness said he destroyed them. He had not taken care of them. On the occasion of his visit to Mr. Currie's office he wanted to see if he could hold his job as scaler. He did not get the information he asked for, all he got was a promise that if he made his report of the company's cut about 4½ million feet it would be abou tright and the government would not use the axe. Mr. Currie did not tell him that the company had cut about 4½ millions. What Mr. Currie said was that if the scale return was 4½ million it would be about right. He did not remember anything that happened when he left the oqce.

Joe Lapointe drove back with him. When witness went to McAllister's office he didn't remember any one being there but McAllistser. He did not remember seeing D. A. Stewart there.

Mr. LeBlanc here asked that the witness be stood aside until certain papers arrived from the crown land office in Fredericton.

Charles Purvis

This was agreed to and Charles Purvis was called. Mr. Purvis is in the employ of the Continental Lumber co., and had books showing an account of the company's logging operations in the period in question.

Mr. LeBlanc objected to the production of the books as Murchie had not had access to them and had never examined them. The scope of the enquiry was to determine whether Mr. Currie had evaded payment of stumpage as a result of inducing Archibald Murchie to reduce his scale. The evidence should be based on that scale and the enquiry should be limited to the sources of information open to Mr. Murchie. The commissioner said the whole subject of the enquiry was to ascertain whether Mr. Currie caused stumpage to be paid on statement of lumber cut that was not correct. He would allow the examination of the book. Mr. Baxter then questioned the witness as to the operations of jobbers. The remainder of the afternoon was occupied in going over the accounts of operators showing the number of pieces got out by each and the contents in feet. The hearing then adjourned until Wednesday morning at ten o'clock.

DARING OUTRAGE IN COUNTY CORK

Fifty Masked Ruffians Hold Up Constables and General Fight Occurs.

London, July 9.—(Via Reuters Ottawa Agency.)—Another example of the excesses occurring in various parts of Ireland is the daring outrage in County Cork, where constables returning from enforcing the proclamation at a gathering were held up by fifty masked men, who attempted to stop the vehicle. In the melee which ensued, there was much firing. One policeman was severely wounded, another had his arm fractured, and others were badly beaten. The cab driver fled for his life. The assailants unharnessed the horse, and then threw the vehicle over a cliff.

THE B. C. STRIKE

Vancouver, July 9—There have been no developments today, the eighth day of the strike, in the labor troubles which involve carmen and electrical workers of the British Columbia Electric and The Western Canada Power Co. Apparently the next move is to be taken by the municipalities.

Vancouver has agreed to the six cent fare, without which, the electric company says it cannot pay the men's demands.

Victoria is holding out, and proposes to negotiate for cheaper light, as a concession, in return for higher fares. Burnaby and North and South Vancouver also are holding out.

TELEGRAPH HEARING

Washington, July 9—Senators demanding investigation before action on the house resolution authorizing the president to take over the telegraph telephone, cable and radio lines won a partial victory today when the senate inter-state commerce committee heard testimony behind closed doors, on the telegraph situation from President Carlton of the Western Union Telegraph Company. A decision regarding further hearings was deferred.

We will chase the high prices at our Price Attacking Sale. Bassen's. 14-16-18 Charlotte street. No branches.

Hun Government Owned It.

Washington, July 9.—More than seven months' work, involving activities of the department of justice and secret service, as well as the efforts of New York State authorities, preceded the arrest of Dr. E. A. Rumely, of the New York Mail Publishing Company.

Assistant Attorney General O'Brien said today the inquiry was far from closed and intimated that further arrests were to be expected.

Mr. O'Brien said the department was entirely satisfied that the Mail corporation was owned chiefly by the imperial German government.

Plans for maintaining the paper as a going concern are being worked out.

Ralph St. John Freeze, Sussex was a visitor in the city yesterday.

GRAY HAIR

Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative, used as directed, is guaranteed to restore gray hair to its natural color or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. Price $1.00. On sale in St. John by the Ross Drug Co., 100 King street.

G. N. W. TELEGRAPHERS LIKELY TO STRIKE

Vice-President Hill Authorized To Call One Today.

Chicago, July 9.—S. J. Konenkamp, international president of the C. T. U. A., today sent a message to C. E. Hill at Toronto, vice-president of the organization, atuhorizing him to call a strike of the employees of the Great North Western Telegraph Company tomorrow.

The company has offices in Northern New Brunswick.

At Senator Gideon Robertson's request a postponement of the strike of the G. N. W. Telegraph operators authorized by President Konenkamp for tomorrow has been made until the senator reports the results of a conference with the cabinet tomorrow. At this meeting D. B. Hanna and Z. A. Lash, the company's representatives will be present.

"We have our strike order, which will be put into effect tomorrow evening if Taylor and Thompson do not go back to work," said Mr. C. E. Hill, Canadian representative of the executive board of the union, today.

"This evening a mass meeting is being held in Winnipeg. The feeling there is decidedly in favor of a strike."

Senator Robertson said the situation was decidedly critical, and that the men were very restless. They were ready to go on strike tonight, he asserted.

PREMIER BORDEN AT CLIEVENDEN

Visits Canadian Red Cross Hospital and Addresses Nurses.

London, July 9—Premier Borden visited the Cliveden Canadian Red Cross hospital on Sunday and attended divine service. He addressed a great gathering of staff nurses and patients and congratulated them all on their service to the country in a great cause. He afterwards was a guest at the officers' mess.

Premier Lloyd George was also a guest at Cliveden. Premier Borden on Monday held a conference with the Canadian ministers, attended the war conference, and moved the address to their majesties on the occasion of their silver wedding. He later inspected the famous statue to be erected in the soldiers' cemetry at Cliveden.

GERMANS UNEASY

London, July 9—An Amsterdam despatch to the Central News Agency referring to the landing of British forces on the Murman Coast says there is uneasiness in Germany on this account and quoted the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung as speculating on the British purpose.

RECONSTRUCTION WORK FOR WOMEN

The new era in women's work and citizenship has been significantly recognized in the first report of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association. The Executive Committee recommends that a "post-graduate scholarship or fellowship be offered in the departments of economics at McGill, Toronto and Manitoba Universities, successively, open to women graduates of any Canadian university, for the purpose of carrying on research work of an economic character in the industrial or home-making occupations of women." It is also proposed to offer a matriculation scholarship at various Canadian universities for essays by girl matriculants on the economic importance from a national standpoint of household buying or on the training of girls for skilled employment. Prizes are to be offered in the different Provinces for essays by school children on national industries or on the value of trade training in finding advantageous employment.

MISS MARJORY MacMURCHY

who is in charge of the Women's Department of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association. Women graduates, undergraduates, girls at school, teachers, home-makers and women belonging to organizations will be specially interested in the plans for reconstructive study in women's occupations proposed by the Women's Department of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association.

HERE IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

There'll be more rainy days, the last fortnight has not exhausted them.

Special prices on several patterns of Raincoats, bought under regular values and you get the advantage.

Several colors, neat patterns, with convertible collars—

$9 and $11.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

Open Friday evenings; close Saturdays at 1; during June, July and August.

MINATURE ALMANAC.

July—Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter, 1st	4h. 43m.	a.m.
New Moon, 8th	4h. 22m.	a.m.
First Quarter, 16th	2h. 25m.	a.m.
Full Moon, 23rd	4h. 55m.	p.m.
Last Quarter, 30th	9h. 14m.	a.m.

Date	D. of W.	Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	H. Water a.m.	H. Water p.m.	L. Water a.m.	L. Water p.m.
10	Wed	5.52	9.06	1.38	14.07	8.09	20.28
11	Thu	5.53	9.05	2.23	14.51	8.52	21.10
12	Fri	5.54	9.05	3.07	15.35	9.33	21.51
13	Sat	5.55	9.04	3.52	16.20	10.13	22.33
14	Sun	5.55	9.04	4.38	17.07	10.52	23.17
15	Mon	5.56	9.03	5.26	17.56	11.32	24.84

THE WEATHER

Toronto, July 9—The area of low pressure which for over a week, was off the Atlantic Coast, has moved westward into the Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence Valleys, and has brought showers to almost all parts of Ontario. The weather continues fine throughout the western provinces, and has become very warm in Alberta.

	Min	Max.
Victoria	52	63
Ottawa	54	66
Montreal	54	62
Quebec	54	62
St. John	54	66
Halifax	52	60

Forecasts — Maritime — Moderate easterly and southerly winds; unsettled and cool, with some scattered showers.

North New England—Cloudy and unsettled Wednesday; Thursday probably fair; moderate south and southwest winds.

Pastor Russell and His Numerous Victims

The end of a very cleverly conducted semi-religious promotion stunt.

Leaders of the denomination sentenced to lengthy prison terms on various charges.

History of a gigantic mercantile organization which, operating under the cloak of religion, has found its dupes in every part of the country. Many believers are here in St. John where frequent lectures have been given and Russell's books freely sold.

Pastor Russell cleverly planned his whole campaign, controlling subsidiary corporations for the promotion of his various enterprises. Miracle Wheat one of the stunts which first gave him unenviable notoriety.

His successors were not quite so bright as their leader and soon after his death trouble appeared.

Read all about Pastor Russell and his world-wide game in

The St. John Standard

Saturday, July 13th

If your newsdealer does not handle the paper ask him to get it for you, or better still, subscribe direct. The Saturday Standard alone is worth five dollars a year of any man's money.