

CLASSIC FIRE'S FINGER IN THE CURRIE CASE

Commissioner Declares That Province Was Defrauded of Several Thousands of Dollars by Company of Which Hon. William Currie Was Manager—Mr. Currie Knew of the Fraud and Took No Steps to Prevent It Although He Was a Member of the Legislature and Speaker of the House at the Time.

(Continued from page 1.)
In the matter of an act authorizing an inquiry into certain charges preferred against the Honorable William Currie, 8 George V. Chapter 40, passed 8th April, 1918.
The report of James Friel, Commissioner appointed under the said act, to the Honorable William Pugsley, L. L. D., K. C., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick: I beg to submit my report on the evidence taken by me in this matter, and my findings thereon.
The Commission directed investigation and inquiry into certain charges which are fully and at large set forth in the preamble to the said act. The preamble and charges are as follows:
Whereas, the Honorable John B. M. Baxter, a member of the Legislative Assembly of this Province for the County of St. John, has from his place in the House formulated certain charges against the Honorable William Currie, Speaker of the House and a member of the Legislative Assembly for the County of Restigouche, which charges are as follows:

The Charges.
"That the said Honorable William Currie, being then manager of the Continental Lumber Co., Limited, a duly incorporated company with its head office and chief place of business at Charlottetown, in the County of Restigouche aforesaid, and a member of the Legislative Assembly, in the month of April, 1917, did state to one Archibald Murchie, then a lumber scaler appointed by the Government of the Province of New Brunswick, that he, the said Archibald Murchie, should not make his report on lumber cut by the said Continental Lumber Company, Limited, for the logging season of 1916 and 1917 too high, but that he should keep it as low as possible, and that he would not make it more than 4,500,000 feet for all lumber cut by the said Company on Crown Lands during the winter season of 1916 and 1917, and urgently requested the said Murchie to keep his report down to 4,500,000 feet; that the said William Currie also stated to the said Murchie that he would look after him (Murchie) so the Government would not make trouble for him if he should reduce the accounts to 4,500,000 feet; that the said William Currie replied that if he (Murchie) made the reduction he would have nothing to fear; that in consequence of such and other conversation of the said William Currie, the said Murchie did reduce the statement of lumber scaled by him in the season of 1916 and 1917 cut by the said Company on Crown Lands within the district for which he was surveyor from 6,780,582 feet to 4,815,562 feet, a reduction of 1,965,020 feet; that the said reduced statement was forwarded to the Crown Land Department of the Province by the said Murchie and such statement omitted altogether the names of six operators of the said Company whose operations were all known to said William Currie; that the said William Currie caused stamperage to be paid by said Company upon the said reduced amount well knowing that it was not the full and proper amount of stamperage which was due to the Province in respect to the operations of said Company during the said season of 1916 and 1917 and thereby defrauded the said Province of a portion of its revenue;

And whereas, it is deemed proper that the said charges be investigated by a Royal Commission to be appointed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor;
The inquiry was held at Campbellton principally. There was a hearing at Fredericton to examine the Deputy Minister in charge of Crown Lands and see the returns in his name.
Honorable J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., appeared in support of the charges. Mr. A. T. LeBlanc, M. P., Barrister at Law, appeared on behalf of the Government of the Province. Herewith is filed the official stenographer's transcript of the evidence and arguments of counsel.
The charges are founded on an affidavit of Archibald Murchie, sworn March 22, 1918, and read in the House of Assembly April 22, 1918. He had been a lumber scaler in the County of Restigouche from 1908 to 1917, when Mr. Currie dismissed him. The former opposition had come into power and Mr. Currie was a member of the ruling party and was a member of the House and, with his colleague, in charge of the patronage of the County.

Mr. Baxter's Case.
Murchie's story on oath is that the last of March or early in April, 1917, after the local elections, which were held February 24th, he went to the office of the Continental Lumber Company at Charlottetown, and saw Mr. Currie. One Joseph Lapointe had come along with him for the drive, but stayed in the outer office and he and Mr. Currie were alone together in the inside office and there had conversation. The reason for his seeing Mr. Currie was to ascertain how his Murchie's scale of the lumber cut by the Continental people corresponded with theirs, and also, incidentally, to find out how Mr. Currie, who was then a

member of the Legislature and boss of Murchie's job, felt. He had had a talk with Mr. Currie February 16th, before the elections, and Mr. Currie had told him that he thought the cut would be around four and a half million for the season. He had told Mr. Currie on that occasion that he did not think that he, Currie, had used him just right the season before in placing a man on the drive to find more lumber than he, Murchie, had in the rivers, and make report, and he wanted Mr. Currie (this was before the elections) that he, Murchie, was going to be pretty exacting that year.

The Conversation With Richards.
After the conversation with Mr. Currie he saw Mr. Daniel Richards, president of the Continental Lumber Company in March, he says, and they spoke about the cut of the Continental Lumber Company and Mr. Richards told him that he did not have any scale bills and did not know anything about the cut, but that all the scale bills were with Mr. Currie at Charlottetown and that any arrangement he made with Currie would be satisfactory to Richards. He did not discuss the number of feet or make any arrangement with Mr. Richards at that or any other time, with reference to the Company's cut for that season. On the second occasion of talking with Mr. Currie, the important occasion referred to in the charges, he says that Mr. Currie first started the conversation by saying that he should have nothing to do with the scaling, that Mr. Richards would settle it. Murchie says that he told Mr. Currie that Richards had told him that he had better see Mr. Currie as the Richards, didn't have any bills and did not know much about it. Currie, he says, thought that about four and a half million or near that would be about right for the season's cut. Murchie told Mr. Currie that his estimates and the reports he had sent to the Department were higher and that it would be hard for him to reduce his scaling very much below his estimate; that it was likely his last year scaling, there was change in the Government and he did not want to reduce it too much. Mr. Currie said that if Murchie would use them right that they did not intend to use the axe, "by next election you fellows would be voting for us." Murchie said that to reduce the scaling he would have to leave the names of some jobbers off altogether. Currie said that it was all right, he could please himself, so long as he did not make the bills much over four and a half millions. Murchie then omitted from his final report the names of six jobbers and took 2,165,290 feet off the cut first reported to the Crown Land Office, which was 6,780,582 feet. He says that the quantity represented what he found to be the cut of the Continental Lumber Company for the season of 1916 and 1917. They cut at least that much.

Cross Examination.
On cross examination Murchie swears that he did not settle the stamperage for the season 1916-17 with Mr. Richards. He says he always adopted the procedure of settling the amount with Mr. Currie. He says he settled with Mr. Richards when that gentleman was manager, that would be before Mr. Currie came in 1914. He denied that he went to Mr. Richards' office to settle the stamperage on the Continental Lumber Company's cut for 1917. He went there in March. At first he refused to say what he went for. Being ordered to answer after argument of counsel, he said he went to settle the stamperage cut on the Tobique and Eel Rivers, whatever that meant. This was the only occasion on which Mr. Richards spoke to him about the Continental's cut for 1916 and 1917. Mr. Richards told him he didn't have their bills and did not know that the cut was. He insists that Mr. Richards never said that they had cut about four and a half millions. He denied that any conversation took place between him and Mr. Richards in February before the elections.

Destroyed His Books.
As to his scaling, he did not keep his papers, they were destroyed and he destroyed his books. He had been over part of the district once, some of it twice, but says some of the logs he never saw at all. He does not know what returns he sent to the Department. He does not remember. He thinks he sent in two or three reports. He had been on part of the operations three or three times but would not swear that he was in the woods three times scaling. He wouldn't swear that he was in the woods twice scaling. He does not remember scaling the cut of the Continental Lumber Company, he says he was there once anyway. He visited some of the camps. He does not remember much about his scaling that season. He gives his authority as the counter and the counter's books, when pressed to tell about the jobbers and the operations about most of which he does not know or remember. He doesn't deny saying that he would land Currie if he went to the penitentiary or hung for it. He doesn't remember. He didn't deny saying to one John McKinnon that he didn't give a damn what happened to him as long as he downed Bill Currie. He didn't remember. He didn't remember making the same statement to one John Kerr. He admitted violating the Game Law by killing deer out of season. He didn't know if it was after he became a Government scaler. He had some hazy recollection of taking the oath of office but considered it was only for the season of 1908. He only respected it for that season. He didn't feel that

in the season of 1916-17 he was bound by the oath. He denied reducing stamperage for the Prescott Lumber Company in the season of 1908 or that for the Harbour or any one of the employ of that Company had given him \$100 for reducing their stamperage. He swore positively that they did not. He never got a cent from Robert Miles for stamperage in his life, and this statement he averred is just as true as the rest of his evidence. He says that in his final report he didn't mention any lumber cut by farmers on their private lands, and then says he does not remember. Later he said he won't say whether he did or did not. He didn't take any steps to ascertain how many feet of lumber was cut on granted lands and knew nothing about the amount. He says he got his knowledge about it from what he imagined. He didn't deny that he sought information about his scaling by going around asking the women how much lumber their husbands cut for Currie. He doesn't remember. He says that he arrived at the total cut from his own work and from the books of J. M. May and his partner, and from the information he would get from the lumbermen. He cannot name any of the lumbermen he got information from. In that way he made up his final statement, then he went to see Mr. Currie. He says he did not want any mistake.

The Visit to Currie.
As Government scaler he did not have any business to interview Mr. Currie, it was just for his own purposes. He did not go there to prepare his statement and Mr. Currie did not help him to prepare his statement. He had no occasion to be there to make his final statement. The statement was made up on his books but he had not yet sent it to the Department. He does not deny telling James Woods that it was his last year at scaling and he was going to try to knock \$500,000 out of it over the bargain. He does not remember. He does not remember if he was in the habit of knocking something out besides his regular fee. Asked if he hadn't approached one Sanson of the Tobique Lumber Company and said he had money to run an election in Durham, suggesting that if Mr. Sanson used him right and gave him a few dollars, he, Murchie, would let him, Sanson, off on the stamperage. He did not deny it, he did not remember.

Why He Saw Currie.
When he went to Mr. Currie's office it was in his mind that Mr. Currie was a member of the Government for the County. He wanted to see him for a business chance, holding his position as scaler and see if his estimate was wrong. He did not want to send in final returns that did not correspond with the Government and to satisfy Mr. Currie. He evaded the question as to whether he went there to catch Mr. Currie. On that occasion he did not see Mr. Currie. He saw Mr. Currie's statement and Mr. Currie showed him none. He did not see Mr. Currie's return. Asked if he got the information he was looking for, he said yes, and that he will have his returns all done by April 1st. The report gave the estimates for his district:

Continental Lumber Co. . . 5,116,000
J. & A. Culligan . . . 2,075,000
Lousion Lumber Company . . 1,340,000
Total . . . 8,531,000

He reported nothing further to the Department until he sent in his complete return, not dated, but initialed by the chief scaler April 30, 1917, and acknowledged by the Department that day. This report covers nineteen operations for the Continental Lumber Company, the same names practically as contained in his report sent March 8, 1917, one small operator, Joseph Francoeur, being left out. The cut by this report is 4,488,000.
Continental Lumber Co. . . 4,488,000
J. & A. Culligan . . . 2,999,000
Lousion Lumber Company . . 1,084,000
Total . . . 8,571,000

In a note at the bottom of the report Murchie writes:
"Continental Lumber Company, River Charlottetown has cut over 500,000 feet on granted lands from farmers."
In this way he accounts for the greater part of the reduction in the Continental Lumber Company's cut. There is no explanation of the reduction in the Lousion Company's quantity, or in that of the Culligans. He produced a statement, which he alleges to be a copy of the draft report he had prepared before he went to see Mr. Currie (Exhibit 5.) A copy of it is attached to his affidavit. He says it is made from his books, which he destroyed, his counter's books, and other information and he avers it is correct. In it he accounts for twenty-five operations with a cut of 6,584,000. It was never sent to the Department. This is the scale he says he reduced for Mr. Currie.

The Department's only information of the operations would be from his reports received March 8, and April 30, 1917.
The Continental Company's Bills.
Murchie's final return of 4,571,000 was accepted and in due course bills for stamperage were sent to the Lessees. The Continental Lumber Company's bill was:
CONTINENTAL LUMBER CO.
Murchie's Scale.
Spruce and Pine.
N. B. Charlo River— . . . 23,000
513 Joseph Malthan . . . 83,000
2313 Peter Savoy . . . 83,000

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CHILDREN'S WEIST WATCHES—solid silver cases, regular \$7. sale price \$5.00.
The same WATCH in Gunmetal case regular price \$5. sale price \$3.00.
MEN'S WATCHES WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT RESERVE AT A STRAIGHT DISCOUNT OF 25 PER CENT.
LADIES' WATCHES N 7-15 and 17 JEWELS. These WATCHES were quite untouched. SPECIAL FOR THIS SALE, 25 per cent. off.
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CUT GLASS

Nothing could be more choice as a gift of remembrance than Cut Glass. At these prices you can treat yourself to a gift. Read partial list:
Cut Glass Fruit Baskets, regular \$8.50, SALE PRICE \$6.50.
Cut Glass Water Bottles, regular \$4, SALE PRICE \$3.00.
Cut Glass Tumblers, reg. 50c. each, SALE PRICE 30c. each.
Cut Glass Tumblers, reg. 35c. each, SALE PRICE 25c. each.
Cut Glass Fruit Dishes, regular \$8.00, SALE PRICE \$5.75.
Cut Glass Pie Plates, regular \$7.00, SALE PRICE \$5.25.
Cut Glass Biscuit Jar, regular \$7.50, SALE PRICE \$6.00.
Cut Glass Celery Dish, regular \$8.00, SALE PRICE \$6.00.
Cut Glass Fruit Dish, regular \$4.00, SALE PRICE \$2.85.
Smaller pieces of Cut Glass, such as VINEGAR BOTTLES, MARMALADE JARS, BON-PON DISHES, SALT AND PEPPERS, etc., 50 PER CENT. OFF REGULAR PRICES.
Other practical lines suitable for table or serving purposes.
Casserole Dishes, reg. \$7.00 to \$14.00, SALE PRICE \$5.25 to \$10.00.
Silver Baking Dishes, reg. \$6 to \$14, SALE PRICE \$4.75 to \$8.50.
Silver Butter Dishes, reg. \$2.50 to \$7, SALE PRICE \$1.50 to \$5.25.
Sugar and Cream Sets, reg. \$5 to \$12, SALE PRICE \$3.00 to \$9.00.
Silver Bon-Bon Dishes, reg. \$1 to \$3, SALE PRICE 75c. to \$2.25.
Silver Bread Plates, reg. \$2.75 to \$3, SALE PRICE \$2.00 to \$2.25.
Silver Cake Plates, reg. \$4 to \$9, SALE PRICE \$3 to \$6.50.

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DELTA TEA SETS, Sterling Silver Deposit Ware, regular \$3.00, SALE PRICE \$4.00.
Picture Frames and Mirrors, 35 per cent. off each article.
Manicure Sets in Sterling Silver, Ivory and Ebony.
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Vanity Cases, etc. A new line of the latest effects will be put on sale with other articles at 30 PER CENT. DISCOUNT.

RINGS

Camooes, Rubies, Sapphires, Black Onyx, set in diamonds; Solitaire Diamonds, etc. all the latest settings, regular price \$3 to \$200, DISCOUNTS AT FIRE SALE, 25 per cent. to 50 per cent.

BRACELETS

Gold filled and solid gold, regular prices \$6 to \$28, SALE PRICES \$4.00 to \$20.00.

EXTRA

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Silver Bon-Bon Dishes, reg. \$1 to \$3, SALE PRICE 75c. to \$2.25.
Silver Bread Plates, reg. \$2.75 to \$3, SALE PRICE \$2.00 to \$2.25.
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Cut Glass Biscuit Jar, regular \$7.50, SALE PRICE \$6.00.
Cut Glass Celery Dish, regular \$8.00, SALE PRICE \$6.00.
Cut Glass Fruit Dish, regular \$4.00, SALE PRICE \$2.85.
Smaller pieces of Cut Glass, such as VINEGAR BOTTLES, MARMALADE JARS, BON-PON DISHES, SALT AND PEPPERS, etc., 50 PER CENT. OFF REGULAR PRICES.
Other practical lines suitable for table or serving purposes.
Casserole Dishes, reg. \$7.00 to \$14.00, SALE PRICE \$5.25 to \$10.00.
Silver Baking Dishes, reg. \$6 to \$14, SALE PRICE \$4.75 to \$8.50.
Silver Butter Dishes, reg. \$2.50 to \$7, SALE PRICE \$1.50 to \$5.25.
Sugar and Cream Sets, reg. \$5 to \$12, SALE PRICE \$3.00 to \$9.00.
Silver Bon-Bon Dishes, reg. \$1 to \$3, SALE PRICE 75c. to \$2.25.
Silver Bread Plates, reg. \$2.75 to \$3, SALE PRICE \$2.00 to \$2.25.
Silver Cake Plates, reg. \$4 to \$9, SALE PRICE \$3 to \$6.50.

SILVERWARE

Community Plate and Celebrated Rogers Manufacture
Knives, Forks, Spoons, Butter Knives, Sugar Shells, Coffee Spoons, Orange Spoons, Pie Knives, Soup Spoons, Cold Meat Forks, Cream Ladles, Olive and Dessert Spoons.
25 PER CENT. OFF PRICES AT THIS BIG FIRE SALE.
Baby Cups, Solid Silver and Plate, Regular \$1.50 to \$3.00.
25 PER CENT. OFF AT SALE.
DELTA TEA SETS, Sterling Silver Deposit Ware, regular \$3.00, SALE PRICE \$4.00.
Picture Frames and Mirrors, 35 per cent. off each article.
Manicure Sets in Sterling Silver, Ivory and Ebony.
50 per cent. off at sale.
Regular \$1.50 to \$3.00.
Vanity Cases, etc. A new line of the latest effects will be put on sale with other articles at 30 PER CENT. DISCOUNT.

RINGS

Camooes, Rubies, Sapphires, Black Onyx, set in diamonds; Solitaire Diamonds, etc. all the latest settings, regular price \$3 to \$200, DISCOUNTS AT FIRE SALE, 25 per cent. to 50 per cent.

BRACELETS

Gold filled and solid gold, regular prices \$6 to \$28, SALE PRICES \$4.00 to \$20.00.

EXTRA

Our new line REAL PLATINUM PLATE GOODS, the latest novelty in American cities, 30 to 50 per cent. DISCOUNT AT THIS SALE.

Protected
our Topcoat
in black and gray.
gray and tan, over-
\$30.
overcoats in fine che-
\$30.
dy For Service—
's, 68 King St.

CALENDAR
PHASES OF THE MOON
4th 11h 5m p.m.
13th 1h 0m a.m.<