

days absent for which pay should be deducted. In all these columns there is no entry. We find at the bottom that those who were permitted to be absent for that month were Mrs. E. Corneil, who had her leave of absence extended from the 8th of January to the 11th, with pay; Drouin had his time extended from the 11th to the 1st inclusive. For the month of February, no days of absence are marked for any of the parties I have mentioned but for Mrs. Corneil and Mr. Drouin there is a record that they were absent on leave for one cause or another. For March and April it is the same. So for those four months O'Flaherty, Stafford, Byrne and Morissette were all marked present. Mr. Stein was absent but sent a medical certificate to the department, and was absent from the 8th to the 30th of April with leave. So was Drouin, who sent a medical certificate to the department. If we turn to the pay-list for those four months, we find O'Flaherty, Stafford, Bolduc and Byrne—all those parties—received their full pay for the four months. All those lists are certified by Mr. Lavoie. We have his signature at the bottom of the page certifying to the accuracy of the information given by the Bureau to the department, though all those people were absent for the time mentioned every month in the four months. This is the subject of the complaint in the letter I have read; we see by the documents furnished by the department in this return that the accusation is sustained:

That the said Joseph Paradis, immigration agent at Quebec, treats the immigrants in an illegal and inhuman manner, treating them brutally; in support of such accusation and at present citing one case only, but reserving to myself the right to make known several others, I declare that at the beginning or towards the beginning of the month of June, 1908, one morning towards six o'clock, I have seen with my own eyes Dr. J. P. Lavoie, Immigration Agent at Quebec, in the immigration building, seize an immigrant woman, accompanied by her child, which was lying on a bench, and throwing her to the floor while pushing her violently to the outer door, saying, "Get out, go out." I will prove this fact and several others by irrefutable witnesses.

This is the grave accusation made against an officer. We will see how it was met a little further on. Then the complaint proceeds:

Hon. Mr. LANDRY.

Thirdly:—That the restaurant keeper of the Immigration Department at Quebec, to the knowledge of the said Joseph P. Lavoie, has set aside the instructions of the government to sell his produce to the immigrants at exorbitant prices.

Fourthly:—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie conducts the Immigration Department in a manner to favour certain persons furnishing supplies, among others, Mr. Jacques Dery, the restaurant keeper, at whose place he himself takes his own meals.

Fifthly:—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie permits the sale and the distribution to the immigrants and to (some) employees of drinks prohibited by the department.

Sixthly:—That the said Joseph P. Lavoie has succeeded by partial conduct and by outraging preferences in discontenting the different companies which engage in the debarkation and transport of immigrants.

We have here a report made a few years before, and an answer is given to one of my inquiries on the subject—a report by an officer of the department named Blair was made on the 28th of June, 1906. What does Mr. Blair say? He reports to Mr. Scott, his chief officer:

According to your instructions I visited Quebec on the 26th and 27th instants, to inquire into the charges and complaints made against Mr. Jacques Dery, the caterer at the immigration sheds there and I beg to report as follows:

I found it difficult to get the exact facts from the persons who had complaints because they stay in Quebec for but a few hours on their way westward. My information was gathered from the most reliable sources available, such as, the Dominion Immigration Agent, Mr. George Hayden, landing master, Mr. Anderson, interpreter, and from others of the staff in Quebec, from the interpreters of the Canadian Pacific railway, from a committee representing most of the churches and charitable organizations of the city also the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association and the Daughters of the Empire.

The complaints are these:—1. That Mr. Dery overcharges for the common necessities. Bread which sells in the city for 18 cents retail delivered, is 20 cents here and in some instances as high as 25 and 30 cents has been paid. Sardines 10 cents, city prices 5 cents. Salmon, (canned) 15 cents, city prices 10 and 12 cents. Cups of tea that should cost 5 cents have been sold for 10 and 15 cents and in more than one case 25 cents was charged for a cup of tea and a slice of bread. This is said to have occurred in the case of a Mrs. Warren landing at Quebec on the 21st inst. These are but sample cases out of numbers reported.

2. Re the charge of incivility and refusal to supply wants of some passengers landing at Quebec per S.S. "Tunisian" on the 9th inst. (This is the case brought up in the House by Mr. Hughes (Victoria). I learn from Mr. Chas. W. Thorn of the provincial police force who was on duty at the immigration sheds