

THE GILMOUR-PARADIS CASE.

The Gilmour & Co. vs. Father Paradis case, and the counter charge of Paradis vs. Gilmour, owing to the intricate nature of each, have caused an unusual stir for upwards of a month past. The exhaustive nature of the evidence, or at least statements, *pro* and *con*, affecting this case, precludes anything like a full reprint of the same in THE LUMBERMAN, but sufficient will be given to enable our readers to form at least a substantial opinion of the cases now before the courts.

The contention first arose through the Messrs. Gilmour charging Father Paradis with having defaced certain marks on a large quantity of saw-logs belonging to them and situated in Egan township.

For this the rev. Father was arrested, and also on another charge preferred by one Michael White, accusing him of having forged his name on a cheque for \$450. It seems that in 1885 Michael White made certain improvements on colonization roads in the township of Ammond. The cheque for \$450 to indemnify him was sent by the Government to Father Paradis, who had been appointed general superintendent of the various colonization works in that region. Without consulting White, it is held, Father Paradis wrote that person's name on the back of the cheque (which was payable to White or order) and sent it to Ottawa to be placed to his own credit in a certain wholesale house there. White denies that Father Paradis was in any way authorized to sign his name or to appropriate the amount of the cheque. Thus the action.

Before the public had time to thoroughly understand the situation a still greater surprise presented itself, in the shape of a counter charge and the arrest of Messrs. John Gilmour and Allan Gilmour, jr. upon a warrant issued at the instance of a man named Anis Brouillard, an employee of the Rev. Father Paradis. Brouillard, it appears, was arrested along with Rev. Father Paradis upon the warrant issued at the instance of Gilmour & Co., charging Paradis with cutting the Gilmour mark off saw-logs and replacing it by that of another man. The Saturday following his arrest he swore out a warrant in Hull accusing Messrs. John and Allan Gilmour of stealing logs from a man named Adam, of Gatineau Point, and upon this warrant both lumbermen were arrested. They were at once released on bail.

As the trial has been postponed from time to time, and is now set down for Sept 2nd, we are not in a position to publish the legal phase of the case in this issue, but will give the defence set up by each side so that our readers may determine for themselves the justice of the respective charges as they present themselves.

FATHER PARADIS' VERSION.

Rev. Father Paradis, on being interviewed by a *Journal* reporter, said: Many mis-statements have been published with reference to the trouble that the Messrs. Gilmour have precipitated. There has been a systematic plan—a conspiracy I may call it—to drag me down and stuff it into the public ear that I am an unprincipled man, but I will tell the whole story without any varnish.

"The whole trouble is situated in the township of Egan, on the sixth concession line, in Ottawa County. The seven settlers who came in April, 1886, have taken up lands. This land, Messrs. Gilmour have cut timber and logs on themselves for twelve years, and when they found it getting scarce of timber they gave the saw-log cutting into the hands of jobbers because it did not pay the concern to cut. The jobbers, who undertook to get logs out on the lands, instead of making money invariably made debt, so that you can see there was very little good timber on the land."

"Well, the seven settlers came in and took up land in this place, being duly entered in the Crown Land Office. I got a free grant from the Quebec Government of fifty acres of land for a church and bought fifty more. The price paid for all the lands taken up both by me and the settlers was 30 cents an acre, payable in six instalments.

There was no trouble until the Cormier-Rochon election. Then Mr. Donnelly, Messrs. Gilmours' agent, came to me and asked me to give my support to Rochon, saying that poor settlers or nobody else would ever get fair play or justice from such a rotten government as the Ross government. I am a Conservative myself, although I take no active part in politics, and when Mr. Donnelly came to me and solicited me to do what I could for Rochon, I put him off as quietly as I could, as I did not want to offend him. The Messrs. Gilmour supported Mr. Cormier also. When any settler asked me about the vote I always gave my views in support of the Conservative candidate. Well, Cormier was elected, and the township of Egan gave him over eighty of a majority, which was an astonishing thing, and the Messrs. Gilmour gave me great credit saying that the large vote for Cormier was all due to my influence among the people. But although the Gilmours were pleased, my action in the election annoyed Mr. Donnelly very much, and it seems he determined to make trouble, for he immediately wrote his firm stating that some very valuable timber was on the lots taken up by the settlers.

"This was last fall. The firm, of course, are guided by his advice, and consequently last fall they put a concern shanty, a thing never before thought of on the place, with twenty men in it, and these men began cutting down the bush in all directions. Myself and the settlers served a protest on Mr. Donnelly and also on the foreman of the shanty, stating that the land belonged to the settlers, and was private property, and that the firm had no right to cut down the timber, which would be of service to the settlers. No attention was paid to

the protest and the havoc went on. Of course there were some logs on the land, and the settlers, acting on my advice, cut them and placed them on railroads. We offered to sell these logs to the Messrs. Gilmour, and Mr. Donnelly came to see them. Some time after Mr. Gilmour came up himself, and showed a paper which purported to be a notification from the Government that the settlers' entries on the land had been cancelled, although the document, which was written on a telegraph blank, was written by one of Mr. Gilmour's shanty clerks.

"This discouraged the people very much, and I went down to Quebec about the matter. I waited on Mr. Cormier and stated the case. He gave me a letter to the Hon. Mr. Lynch and I laid the case before him. He said the cancellation had not taken place. The thing evidently embarrassed the Minister of Crown Lands, as both parties in the dispute were supporters of the Government. Mr. Lynch said he would enquire into the affair, and we heard no more from him."

"In the meantime the Messrs. Gilmours hammer marked all the settlers' logs with their registered mark. The settlers were and are very poor, but there was a principle involved and we determined to fight the matter in the courts. People questioned the wisdom of this, saying 'Oh, the Gilmours are wealthy; even suppose you are right they will bring it from court to court and ruin you with expense. But we determined to fight for our rights. The logs, however, were what is known as perishable goods, and it would never do to leave them in the bush. There was a change of government in the meantime, so I went down to Quebec and saw the Hon. Mr. Mercier and laid the whole matter before him, showing him that if the logs remained in the bush much longer they could not be drawn, as the snow was fast going away. This was last April. Mr. Mercier assured me that justice would be done to the poor settlers and casually intimated that it was a common occurrence for rich lumbermen to take advantage of the poverty of settlers who had taken up land, near their limits that they might buy their goods at their own prices. As the matter was in dispute in the courts with regard to the ownership of the logs, it was necessary to give security to the court for their full value, and as the settlers were too poor to give security themselves, the Hon. Mr. Mercier caused an Order-in-Council to be passed giving \$5,000 as security for the logs, in the event that the decision of the Court would be against us. With this security deposited in the Court we proceeded to draw our logs out of the bush to the river. We negotiated and sold the logs to Mr. Adam, of Gatineau Point, guaranteeing him against all loss should there be any further trouble with the Gilmours. About two thousand logs were drawn to the river."

"Now all the logs were with Gilmour's registered mark on their butts and tops, and of course it would never do to launch them into the water in that way, for there was nothing to prevent them from getting mixed with Gilmour's logs and Mr. Adam would have no way of identifying his property. Therefore as the culler measured the logs he chopped off Gilmour's mark although in all cases leaving the mark placed on them by the Court official, and Mr. Adams' mark was put on. I was present when this was going on and one of the logs was still with Gilmour's mark on when Mr. Donnelly happened to come around. He pointed out not to take the mark off, and I ordered the culler to take it off, and for that I was arrested."

"What were the Messrs. Gilmour arrested for?"

"Why for taking our logs. When the logs were put in the river Messrs. Gilmour directed his men to run them into his mills, and they were sawn up, and not only ours but eighty belonging to Mr. Adam. When they found that these eighty were not of our bunch they made restitution to Mr. Adam. I had them arrested for theft, as they stole the logs and turned them to their own use although we had first the prior right of ownership, and secondly, we had bought them from the court by giving the Mercier Government \$5,000 order-in-council."

"The Gilmours," continued the Rev. Father "are trying to over-awe us with their wealth, but there is a principle at stake, and we will fight the battle to the bitter end. Remember, I have no financial interest in the matter, but as I am organizer and director of the colony I am obliged to take the principal part in the transaction. Another thing, I have the assurance of the premier of the province that justice will be done to the colonists, as he told me both verbally and by letter that he would protect the poor man against the oppression of the rich. The Messrs. Gilmours know they are in the wrong, but a pride I do not understand, makes them think they would lose their prestige in the Gatineau country if they did not fight."

"How about the charge of forgery against you?"

"Oh, that's all nonsense. Mr. White does not make any such charge directly. When the trial comes on I have documents in my possession to set that matter in its proper light. I am the overseer of colonization roads in six townships and Mr. White is one of the men under me who is to see that the colonization money is to be devoted to road building. I'll throw day light on the nonsense they talk about forgery when the case is on in the court. It is only another item in a systematic effort to drag me down in public estimation. The whole point to be settled in the dispute is does the lumber occupied by a settler belong to him or does it belong to any outsider who likes to claim it? If the court decides that the settler has no right to the lumber on his land, then the sooner colonists and intending colonists know it the better. But to do the Gilmours justice, I do not think there would have been any trouble with them had it not been for Donnelly, who determined on revenging himself some way because I did not support Rochon in the election."

MR. DONNELLY'S REJOINER.

"It was not my intention to add anything to what has already appeared in the French and English press concerning the Gilmour-Paradis *enquete*, but after reading the statements made by the Rev. Father Paradis in your issue of the 4th inst. I could not allow them to pass unchallenged because they are a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. In the first place the public will perhaps be astonished to learn that the 'seven poor settlers' who duly entered their names in the Crown Lands office exist only in the imagination. There is

not now and there never has been a single *bona fide* settler in the part of the sixth range of Egan that is here referred to. At the time of Father Paradis' advent in that locality there was one squatter here, the now notorious Francis Brouillard. This man squatted there in the midst of a thick pinery. In this proceeding was against the interest of the firm as well as against the law of the land, as it now stands, it was our intention to take legal means to have him removed, but as he was not clearing the land to any extent, and as he was selling the firm all the logs he made, they decided to let him pass. All the other 'poor settlers' who 'duly entered their names' are bogus from beginning to end.

The whole trouble arose in this way: Father Paradis has a brother whom he wishes to establish in a woodenware business in the adjoining settlement. To do this successfully he must have a reserve of timber, and the most successful way of securing it was to obtain possession of some good timbered lands near by. But there must be no partnership in the business. He wanted the timber for his brother only, and the land could not be bought from the Government with conditions of settlement in the legitimate way. Accordingly our enterprising missionary borrowed the names of men on whom he could depend for this purpose, such as the priest of the adjoining parish, several members of the order of Christian Brotherhood, his own brothers, etc., and duly 'entered their names' for a block of 1,700 consecutive acres, upon which were standing about 25,000 saw logs. This block of land was all on the limits of Messrs. Gilmour & Co., and the location tickets were applied for in the last days of April before the annual renewal of licenses, so as to preclude the possibility of the timber being cut by the lawful owners. Father Paradis pretends that there was no timber left on the lots in question, and that we had no intention of working on them the past winter, until he refused to be guided by me at the last elections, and the sending of men to work on them at all was an afterthought, and only a measure of retaliation; but the fact that a depot was built there in March, 1886, and a large quantity of supplies stored there with the view to cutting the timber during the following autumn will be sufficient refutation for this statement. I did not know the lots were sold until the jobbers were at work in the woods in October. I did not know it because the selling of lands in that locality was altogether illegal and I never suspected it would be done by the Quebec Government.

With the real settlers we have no trouble. On the contrary we get on very well together; they want employment and a market for their produce, and the firm wants all the logs they can cut, but when the manipulator comes along the case is different. There is a conflict of interests and trouble begins, and Father Paradis is a manipulator. As regards the election canvass, I can only say that during the last elections I remained strictly neutral, as I did not consider myself authorized by the firm to interfere in the matter. I did not vote myself, neither did I solicit a single vote. Father Paradis' explanation of the reason why he was arrested does not contain a word of truth. He employed a gang of men to deface the marks and replace them with his own marks on 1,250 logs belonging to Gilmour & Co. that were cut outside of the disputed land altogether; and a more outrageous proceeding I never heard of, and it was for trying to recover possession of these 1,250 logs, with another man's mark on them, that Messrs. John and Allan Gilmour have been arrested. The penalty described by law for doing what he did on this occasion is 7 to 14 years in the penitentiary. During my connection with the firm of Gilmour & Co., which now dates back about 41 years, it has been my lot to come in contact with the Roman Catholic clergy in many ways, and during all that time I fail to remember a single instance where our intercourse has been attended by the least unpleasantness, and I think the exception only proves the rule. With regard to the forgery business I know nothing, but I do know that a good deal of money that has been granted lately by the Quebec Government for colonization roads has not been spent on the roads, and of this any resident on the Gatineau has a right to complain.

GILMOUR'S ATTORNEY SPEARS.

"As these cases, which being in litigation before the courts should until finally decided have been exempt from comment from the press, have nevertheless been made the subject of articles extremely unfair to Messrs. Gilmour, I deem it my duty as their attorney in all the civil cases and one of their counsel in the criminal charges to ask your insertion of a correct statement of the facts which gave rise to the present difficulties. Every person acquainted with the lumber business knows that on the confines of the settlement there has for many years existed a class of persons who might not unappropriately be called timber sharks. These people make a practise of obtaining, under pretence of settlement, location tickets for the best timbered lots they can find in a limit. Having thus obtained for a trifle, say an instalment of six cents per acre, possession under a title which gives them legal possession and enables them to exercise the rights and actions of proprietors, they ostensibly for the purpose of clearing the land, slash down all the pine they can find, and after having in a year or two cut and sold all the merchantable timber they can find on the lots, having completely spoiled them, and made a veritable tinder box and perennial source of danger to the surrounding country, abandon and then take up other lots and repeat the same proceedings. In order to put a stop to this systematic devastation of public domain, the Legislature of the Province of Quebec in the session of 1883, passed an Act authorizing the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to set apart as a forest reserve all the ungranted lands of the Crown under license to cut timber, except such parts as are destitute of timber and fit for cultivation, and that from the date of the publication of such order in the Quebec Official Gazette no lands included in such reserve should be sold or appropriated for settlement until after the expiration of ten years. Under the authority of this act an Order-in-Council was passed on the 10th of September of the same year and published in the Official Gazette on the 22nd of that month setting apart as forest reserve certain territory defined in the Order-in-Council. In the month of October, 1886, the Rev. C. A. M. Paradis, the Rev. Hector