

tot on the street about nine o'clock and said to him:

You won't forget me for the painting.

And that Mr. Lanctot said:

I will think it over.

Nothing was further said. These were the only two men who were called to even say that they could have done the work. Mr. Payette, on cross-examination, also showed very clearly that he was not a man of that standing as a painter, or as a contracting painter, whom a person would be willing to trust to do a good piece of work such as this was supposed to be. These are the only two witnesses, and this the only evidence to controvert the proposition of Mr. Lanctot, that he could not get men in Sorel during the months of July, August and September, when he wanted the painting done. I cannot imagine that any person with the feelings of fairness will say that Mr. Lanctot was overstepping the mark when he made the statement that he could not get men in Sorel during those months to do his painting.

That being the case he goes to the government yards. In May, 1910, between the 15th and 30th, he had a conversation with Mr. Pagé—acquaintances, it is sure, and no doubt, friends. He met Mr. Pagé and asked him if he could overlook the painting and lend men to him from the government yards. Mr. Pagé says:

Yes, if you will get the consent of Mr. Papineau, the director.

About the 29th of May—the evidence is the 29th, but it was evidently the 28th as the 29th was on a Sunday—he went to the government shipyards to see Mr. Papineau. Upon going there he saw Mr. Champagne, and he saw Mr. Pagé. He asked one of them to see Mr. Papineau and see if Mr. Papineau would consent to allow the men to work on the house. They found, and it is proved clearly now, that Mr. Papineau was away from Sorel. Mr. Papineau says that he left Sorel early in the morning of the 28th, went to Montreal where he stayed until Monday afternoon, attending some fête or church entertainment that was being held in Montreal on Sunday. It is very clear that Mr. Papineau was not in Sorel on Saturday the 28th of May or on Sunday the 29th of May. But, he did see Mr. Champagne. Mr. Champagne is the time-keeper, and would be the man that one would naturally be inclined to speak to with regard to a matter of this kind particularly when Mr. Papineau was away. Mr. Champagne said:

Yes, we can let you have the men.

And Mr. Lanctot said:

Keep an account of their time and I will pay you for the men's time.

On that day, or a day or two previous, he is not sure which, he had a conversation with Mr. Pagé, the foreman painter, about the supply of paint, and he told Mr. Pagé to get the paint required from time to time from the firm known as Cyrille Labelle & Co., of Sorel, with which firm, Mr. Lanctot said, he had an account. Mr. Pagé said to Mr. Lanctot: They may not have the paint you will require. It was then arranged that if they had not the paint in stock which was required, Mr. Pagé was to lend the paint from the government store, was to keep an accurate account of the paint used; and Mr. Lanctot would pay for the paint after the completion of the job. That is all there was about the transaction so far as Mr. Lanctot was concerned. He was very seldom in Sorel during that summer; he was back and forth from time to time, but not very frequently. He saw that the work was going on, and that Mr. Pagé was looking after it. That being the case, and if that is all there was to the matter, surely there was no fraud and there was no indiscretion on the part of Mr. Lanctot. He went to these men to borrow the men required; the foreman consented to allow the use of the men; they were to keep an accurate account of the time of the men and of the supplies, and all were to be paid for. That, to my mind, is exactly what happened.

It is contended that the accounts were falsified, that certain men worked on Mr. Lanctot's house for a longer period of time than was charged for in the accounts. One Alfred Douaire, a painter, states in his evidence that he worked on Mr. Lanctot's house for eight weeks, during July, August, September and October. He kept no account or record of the time, and it will be noticed that in his declaration read to the House when the charge was made, he does not state that he worked eight weeks or any specified time. But he says in his evidence that on his conscience he worked eight weeks during the period referred to. He is down in the account which was filed as exhibit No. 2, for only 15 days' work at \$2 a day—and there is no dispute about the daily wages which are admitted to have been the correct wages the government paid the men. Now, it is contended that Alfred Douaire's evidence on that point is to be accepted, that he worked eight weeks instead of 15 days. Mr. Pagé says that he kept the time of every man from day to day. It was not shown that he has any personal interest in the matter. When he was first spoken to about it, he told Mr. Lanctot he would be willing that the men should go there if Mr. Lanctot got the approval of Mr. Papineau. He was to keep