

this day. When he went to see Mr. Ellis about it the excuse given was that he had returned the money to the Government. I say the Government does not want to punish any man in that way, and the Government officer that will act as Mr. Ellis did should be punished, and not only punished, but dismissed from the public service. Take the evidence of Robert Simpson, page 1269. He has known vessels to be detained at the aqueduct when there was plenty of water to let them through. At page 1271 he says that he was present when Capt. Saurien and Morrison had some words about detaining the vessels. Mr. Morrison would not allow some vessels through unless there was at least 6 inches more water in the aqueduct than the vessel was drawing. On this point, let us look at Mr. Page's evidence, and it will be seen that if the officer in charge had shown any judgment he could have allowed the vessels to proceed slowly until they grounded. As the space is narrow, there would be no difficulty then by backing the wheel in, raising the water and floating the vessel. But the orders were that there must be a certain depth of water in excess of the draft of the vessel; and vessels must be kept for forty-eight hours, if necessary, though it would appear that after keeping them for this length of time they were allowed to go through with less water than was in the aqueduct when they arrived there. This is what is driving business away from the canal, though the commissioner says that it is erring on the right side. I have nothing to say against Mr. Morrison; I believe his evidence is all right, but the instructions he received were not all right. Take the evidence of Charles Carter, who was harbor master at Port Colborne: he says that the management of the aqueduct was destroying the trade on the canal. Mr. Carter is a good authority, or ought to be, seeing that he is a Government official, and was formerly a vessel owner, and has been a sailor all his life. A son of this Mr. Carter, Mr. Sperry Carter, who was also a sailor, gives it as his opinion that at the time these vessels were at the aqueduct for two days there was plenty of water to allow them to go through: but the orders were specific, and of course Mr. Morrison had to carry them out. I gather from the commissioner's remarks during the investigation that he was satisfied with Mr. Morrison's evidence. He (the

commissioner) said that if Morrison erred at all it was on the safe side. Was it on the safe side to drive the business of the country from the canal?

Charge 13 — Ellis and Demare are charged with having friends and pets, and Demare with being a pet of Ellis—that in order to get work, fitness is not required, but it is essential that he should belong to the clique—that is to say, should be friendly with Ellis and Demare, or belong to the Port Dalhousie band. I suppose that is the meaning of it. I said something about this the other day. There are a good many musicians employed on the Welland Canal. They have a band hall at Port Dalhousie, and a great many employes belong to the band. Mr. Demare is the president, and of course he sees that the band boys have the plums, if there are any going. If they want to get away to play anywhere he allows them to go, and puts men in their places, and if there is any extra work going the band boys get it. They have an original character there called Daly, a drummer. You will see by the evidence that Mr. Demare is very favorable to drummers. On page 816 Daniel Sylvain's evidence as to drummer Daly is that he was drunk. (See also page 1015, where we find that drummer Daly was drunk at Waite's house and unfit for work). Page 1016: "Saw Daly drunk at Lock 5 and unable to do his work." Albert Johnston was expelled from Government employ for being drunk, but the cast iron rule did not apply in his case, for he was leader in the band, next to the band-master, and he was restored to employment. John House, lock-keeper (see page 1644) was favored as being a member of the band, and Mr. Demare's body servant. This man was also a drummer, and gets \$43 a month as lockmaster. By the payroll for July, 1885, we see that he was paid for 15 days' extra time; in August was paid for six days extra; in September, 7½ days extra; in July, 1888, was paid for extra work, \$22.75; in August, 1888, for extra work, \$16.63 (page 946); in September, 1886, was paid extra \$17.36. Now, these drummers, Daly and House, seem to have been great favorites with the president of the band at Port Dalhousie. Cornelius Reid, the foreman, says at page 1257, that he found fault with Daly to Mr. Demare on account of his drinking; that he was twice so drunk that he could not