

## MINISTER OF ELECTIONS CREATES A SENSATION

**Hon. Bob Rogers Declares That Judges Who Accept Fees For Royal Commission Work Are Grafters---Minister Assumes Insolent Attitude While on the Witness Stand---Was Giving Evidence Before Agricultural College Com.**

(Toronto Globe.)

Had the ex-honorary Colonel Allison accused Mr. Justice Meredith of fee-grafting, as Hon. Robert Rogers charged Mr. Justice Galt, one wonders what would have happened! The Minister of Public Works has played many parts in his time that called for public reprobation, but it is doubtful if, in the whole course of his erratic career he has merited so fully the condemnation of right-thinking men as he did in his attitude before the Agricultural College Commission at Winnipeg.

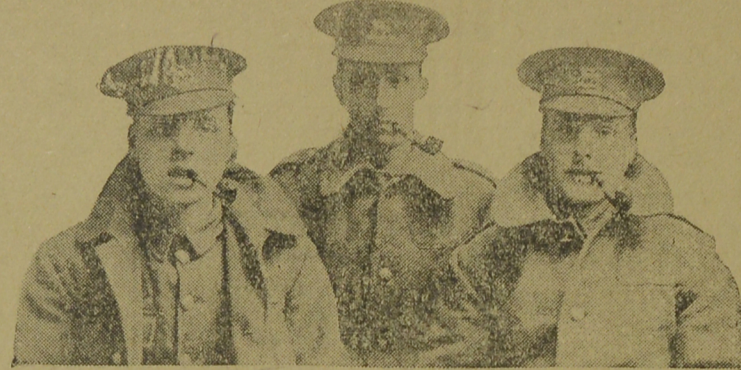
The circumstances that led Mr. Justice Galt to call upon the Minister of Public Works for an explanation were, to say the least, of a suspicious character, that seemed to involve the political reputation, if not the honor, of a member of the Dominion cabinet. It was an occasion when a responsible Minister of the Crown might have been expected to betray some sense of responsibility in face of admitted facts, and to conduct himself with becoming decorum as a public servant called upon to render an account of his stewardship. As the case is sub judice, it is not necessary here to refer to the evidence of Mr. Carter that first brought the Minister's name into the public eye in connection with the contract for the building of the Agricultural College. But the people of Canada have the right to take cognizance of the insolent attitude adopted by a responsible Minister toward the judicial bench. They have a jealous concern for the independence of the judiciary, which is one of the most cherished traditions of British liberty. Anything that tends to impair the freedom and dignity of the bench weakens respect for the law, and saps and undermines the whole fabric of justice on which society rests.

Things have come to a queer pass in this country when a Minister, who under a cloud of suspicion is afforded an opportunity to give evidence in his own defence, seeks to convert a Royal Commission into a vestibule of the Department of Public Works and hold up to public contempt an eminent judge who is appointed to report on a case with which the Minister's name has been connected by the confessions of the contractor. True, a commission is not a court of justice, nor does Mr. Justice Galt act as commissioner in his judicial capacity, but the charge that was brought against him by Hon. Robert Rogers of accepting fees, which "would undoubtedly represent nothing but pure and simple graft," will be interpreted by the man in the street as a public arraignment of a judge by a cabinet minister, and a general aspersion upon the Canadian bench.

One is tempted to inquire what the fate of Mr. Justice Galt would be were the judges of Canada subject to political pressure and removable by any other process than by petition to Parliament. The conduct of Mr. Rogers would be flagrantly improper were he a private citizen only, but in his capacity as a Minister his offence against public decency and the traditions of constitutional government are open to grave censure.

This discreditable incident opens up the whole question of the appointment of judges as commissioners, and is one that calls for review. The farther removed the judiciary is from the hopes of reward or the fears of removal, the more immune it will be from the improper pressure of ministers and politicians, and the greater the security it will afford for the impartial administration of the law.

## THE THREE MUSKETEERS



THESE three Pals of the C.P.R. staff in London, England (reading from left to right: R. J. Harden, Passenger Department; E. G. Moore, Advertising Department; and P. T. Roberts, Management Department), at the outbreak of War lost no time in offering their services for their King and Country, and within eight days of the Declaration of War they had all been posted to the 24th County of London Regiment (The Queen's).

They trained together, and early in 1915 they crossed together to France. They shared together the privations of trench warfare in the early months of that year, and in the great battles in which their Regiment took part; but in May all three were wounded, Harden and Roberts only slightly, but Moore, in the Givenchy fight, was so seriously injured that he was invalided to England and since his recovery has, to his great regret, been fit for Home service only. Harden and Roberts had rejoined their Regiment by June and a month later Harden, who had been promoted to Lance-Corporal, was again hit, this time very seriously and since then remained in Wharfedale Hospital, Sheffield, where he has undergone so many operations that he is looked upon as a wonder by his doctors and a darling by his nurses and lady visitors. Though no longer able to take his part in the strenuous work at the front, he has yet had plenty of opportunity of showing his possession of one of the most soldierly virtues—patient endurance. It is hoped that after fifteen months in hospital he will soon be able to return to the service of the Company. Roberts, the only remaining member of the trio, was promoted Corporal at the end of 1915, and news now comes of his promotion to the rank of Sergeant and the award to him of the Military Medal "for bravery in the field," in an action on May 23rd last. In decorating him General Sir Henry Wilson—the Corps Commander—stated the award was given "for gallantly leading an attack on a flank under very heavy fire, and directing his men in operations for four hours after being wounded." During these operations he was wounded, but has again rejoined his Regiment, and seems to be under the impression that he has not yet done all his bit.

### SCOTCH SETTLEMENT

Good Grain and Root Crops This Year  
Notes of Personal Interest.

Scotch Settlement, Sept. 25.—Harvesting operations of the grain crop are about completed in this section, and the farmers are quite satisfied with the results.

A good many availed themselves of the high price of potatoes, and have been hauling thme to the cars at Keswick. There are some reports of rust and rot of the tubers, some fields being quite badly affected.

Turnips are growing very fast since the rains and will be a good crop.

Mrs. Joseph Smith, St. Marys Ferry, spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Lydia Clark, who is very ill.

Mrs. Hargrove, who has spent the summer with her daughter, Mrs. F. Woodbury Clark, has returned to her

home at French Lake, Sunbury Co.

Mrs. George S. Hagerman, who has been visiting at Andover and other river points, is expected home this evening.

Miss M. Hazel Murch, Bear Island, spent several days last week in this place, the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Helen S. Reed.

Mr. Byron Gunter, Fredericton, is spending a few days at Mr. Amos A. Mitchell's.

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