

Some Information About The Southampton Railway

Commissioner Pringle Found That \$30,000 was Missing--Road Was Not Entitled to a Double Subsidy--Col. McLeod Says Items Were Padded and Pinder "is Not a Good Business Man"--"Deliberate and Intentional Steal," Says the Gleaner

The electors of York, in making up \$233,000.

their minds how to cast their ballots in the approaching election should give some attention to the notorious Southampton Railway deal. Mr. J. K. Pinder, one of the government candidates in York, was the prime mover in the enterprise. His scheme was to construct a railway from a point near Millville to the St. John river, via Mr. Pinder's mill at Temperance Vale. The road is a little less than 13 miles long, is equipped with second-hand rails and has two steel bridges, which were like the rails discarded by the C. P. R. For this road Mr. Pinder received from the Provincial Government a bond guarantee amounting to \$155,000, and although not entitled to it, he received a double subsidy of \$6,400 per mile from the Federal Government, making the total assistance from the public treasury the sum of

Mr. Pinder quarreled with Mr. J. E. Stewart, the contractor, and a lawsuit was the result. The evidence which came out during the trial of this suit convinced the public that there was a steal in connection with the road. Mr. Carvell brought the matter to the notice of parliament and demanded an investigation. To the surprise of many people he was supported in his demand by Col. H. F. McLeod, Conservative M. P. for York, whose remarks were thus reported by Hansard:

"But I think I ought to say that Mr. Johnson, the engineer in the case, when he made such a report as he did make, made it having been deceived as to the actual facts of the case. I believe that that report is not in all details a correct statement of the cost of the specific items that went into the construction of the

road. . . . I have been familiar with the construction of that road "since its inception, and I do say from "my own personal knowledge, gained by living on the spot and by talking to the men whom my hon. friend "Carvell has cited tonight as having "given evidence in the case of Stewart "vs. the Southampton Railway Co., I "am in a position to know that THESE "ITEMS ARE PADDED ITEMS, and "these items which Mr. Johnson has "accepted and upon which very probably the Department of Railways, accepting his statement, paid the subsidy, are not true and correct statements of fact in regard to what went into the construction of that railway. "MR. PINDER IS NOT A GOOD "BUSINESS MAN, MY HON. FRIEND "WILL ADMIT THAT. MR. PINDER "BUILT THAT ROAD IN A SLIP- "SHOD WAY. HE DID NOT TAKE "ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIC "CONDITIONS TO BUILD THAT "ROAD IN THE MOST ECONOMICAL "WAY IN WHICH IT SHOULD HAVE "BEEN BUILT."

The Pringle Report.

The Federal Government appointed Mr. R. A. Pringle, K. C., a former member of parliament, to conduct an investigation. Mr. Pringle held an exhaustive enquiry in this city and examined a number of witnesses, including engineers who had examined the road at the request of the government. Mr. Pinder was also examined, but failed to throw any great amount of light on the transaction. The commissioner finally reported to the government that he found that the road has cost \$203,565, which is \$30,000 less than the amount of public money which went into the road. The Government promised to bring suit for the recovery of the money, but failed to do so.

A Deliberate Steal.

In its issue of July 10th, 1914, during the progress of the enquiry by Commissioner Pringle, the Gleaner newspaper made the following comment: "In the opinion of Commissioner "Pringle there was a 'colored gentleman' concealed in the Southampton "Railway Company's woodpile. Mr. "Pringle need not have been afraid to "challenge contradiction if he had said "that there was more than one. The "story of corruption, as it is further "unfolded, becomes more shameful "with the testimony of each succeeding witness; and the finishing touch "was put to it this morning by the "government engineers, who declare that 12,500 per mile is the outside "value of the road, instead of \$23,450 "per mile, as certified to by Mr. Pinder's engineer. . . . THE WHOLE "STORY IS ONE OF A DELIBERATE "CONSPIRACY TO DEFAUD THE "GOVERNMENT, CAREFULLY CON- "COCTED BY MR. PINDER AND "AIDED IN AND ABETTED BY "THOSE TO WHOM HE MADE IT "WORTH WHILE. The road was built "largely in his own interests and for "the benefit of his own business, and "one would have thought that with "the Government providing him with "the necessary financial assistance he "would have been only too glad to give "the right of way and his own services "and anything else that he could. "gratis. Instead of doing this, he "charged up those items at a most ex- "travagant and extortionate rate; and "on top of that represented that he had "paid for other items amounts vary- "ing from twice to five times as was "actually the case. THE AVERAGE "MAN WILL LOOK UPON THIS "SORT OF THING AS A DELIBERATE "ATE AND INTENTIONAL STEAL."

Is the man who, according to the Gleaner was guilty of a "deliberate and intentional steal," a fit man to represent York in the Legislature?

**TORONTO DISTRICT LEADS
IN RECRUITING**

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Since the war began 395,722 men have enlisted in Canada for the overseas service. Recruiting figures for the first fortnight of February again reflect a gradual but not a large increase. In this period

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This city will have many "Pape's Diapiesin" cranks, as some people will call them, but you will be enthusiastic about this splendid stomach preparation, too, if you ever take it for indigestion, gases, heartburn, sourness, for dyspepsia, or any stomach misery. Get some now, this minute, and rid yourself of stomach misery and indigestion in five minutes.

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Fred Magee.

C. M. Legere.

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Dr. George N. Pearson.

Fred E. Sharpe.

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Walter E. Foster.

Allison F. Bentley.

Sunbury.

Robert Smith.

David Mercereau.

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J. F. Tweeddale.

James Burgess.

Madawaska.

L. A. Dugal.

J. E. Michaud.

Albert.

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C. R. Leger.

J. G. Robichaud.

St. John City.

W. H. Barnaby.

W. E. Scully.

J. A. Sinclair.

Dr. W. F. Roberts.

Charlotte.

W. F. Todd.

H. R. Lawrence.

Burton E. Hill.

Joseph Gaskill.

Queens.

Dr. J. E. Hetherington.

George H. King.

the enrollment totalled 4,538. In the previous fortnight it was 4,130.

The Toronto military district comes to the lead by enlisting 1,310. By divisional areas the enrollment was as follows:

London, 270; Toronto, 1,310; Ottawa, Kingston, 830; Montreal, 478; Quebec, 104; Maritime Provinces, 690; Manitoba, 238; British Columbia, 242; Saskatchewan, 184; Alberta, 187.

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