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## G. B. JONES, M.P.P. HANDLED VALLEY RAILWAY SWAG

Mr W. B. Tennant Swore That He Turned \$20,000 Over to Him Just Prior to the Provincial Election—Mr. Jones Passed It Along to Mr. Thomas Bell—Important Evidence Brought Out at the Valley Railway Enquiry.

(St. John Telegraph.)

Armed with greater powers of investigation and determined to trace the entire transaction to the bottom, Commissioner John M. Stevens yesterday recommended the inquiry into the \$120,000 received by W. B. Tennant in connection with a contract awarded the Nova Scotia Construction Company for a part of the Valley Railway.

In evidence yesterday morning at the court house, W. B. Tennant admitted that he had been paid \$100,000 advance profits as a reward for securing the contract. W. P. Jones, K. C., of Woodstock, and Peter J. Hughes, K. C., of Fredericton, appeared for the government and M. G. Teed and H. A. Powell, appearing for the defense, were neither one present at the morning's session.

Commissioner Stevens opened the session by reading the commission from the lieutenant governor giving him enlargement of powers and allowing him to investigate any money paid to W. B. Tennant by the Nova Scotia Construction Company in connection with the latter's contract.

The first witness called was W. B. Tennant. Speaking of the sum of \$20,000 which Mr. Tennant had spoken of at a previous hearing, he said that he had given it first of all, to George B. Jones of Apohaqui and this was supposed to go to Thomas Bell.

Mr. Jones asked if the sum of \$20,000 was paid to Thomas Bell directly. Mr. Tennant replied that he paid it to George B. Jones of Apohaqui, the member for Kings. A provincial election was on about that time.

Mr. Tennant did not remember if the money was in a package or whether it was counted.

Mr. Tennant asked Mr. Jones to call at the former's office. No one told Tennant to do so.

Q.—Some mention was made of a note?

A.—I would like to have Mr. Teed here.

Q.—This money was paid to Mr. Jones after the N. S. Construction Company got a contract above Centreville?

A.—I don't remember.

Hon. Mr. Jones called attention to the fact that the evidence showed the money was paid after the contract was let.

Told to Take It to Bell.

Mr. Tennant said he asked Mr. Jones to take the \$20,000 over to Mr.

Thomas Bell. Twenty thousand dollars went to the St. John committee.

Mr. Tennant said he did not pay \$2,000 to the St. John committee and did not know who did. He subsequently got \$2,000 from Mr. Bell. It went into the county fund. He got it himself as county treasurer. He did not pay \$4,000 to Kings county fund. He did not pay anything. He did not know what was done with the \$20,000 paid to Mr. Bell. Personally, he did not now if Mr. Bell got the money. He had a half interest in the N. S. Construction Company's profits. All the amounts he received from the N. S. Construction Company were accounted for. There was \$8,200 in addition to the \$120,000.

Mr. Jones—If you were told you got an additional \$13,000 through drafts, what would you say?

Mr. Tennant—It might be correct.

Q.—You took your profits before the contract was completed?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that unusual?

A.—No. I've done it before in private transactions.

Q.—Are you still a partner of the N. S. Construction Company?

Mr. Tennant said every dollar of the \$40,000 was invested in his business.

He was never asked by any member of the government to make a contribution to election funds.

### Some Checks Lost.

Q.—The auditor reports some of your checks through the Royal Bank were lost?

A.—I have not found them yet. They were lying on my desk in the old office.

Q.—Did not Mr. Blanchet say he could not account satisfactorily for the \$40,000?

A.—Don't remember.

Q.—Did any of this money go for election purposes?

A.—Not a dollar.

Q.—Did you take any part in the Westmorland by-election?

A.—No.

Q.—You had quite a pull with the government?

A.—Supposedly. Not so much as I would like to have had at times.

In regard to drafts on the N. S. Construction Co., Mr. Tennant did not remember if he sent letters with the drafts.

Mr. Tennant said that the drafts had no connection with elections.

Q.—You spoke of contributions for \$8,200. To whom were they paid?

A.—The \$3,200 was used by me. The \$2,000 already spoken of is included in the \$3,200.

Q.—In regard to taking profits before the contract was completed, did you ever do it before?

A.—Yes, on two occasions. A note was floated with the intention of providing for it out of profits.

Q.—The N. S. Construction paid you \$100,000 advance profits before they struck a blow.

A.—Yes. I made myself liable to advance \$50,000 working capital if it were needed. It was a private agreement with Mr. Lindsay.

Q.—What other time did you get advance profits?

A.—Once on a private contract. It was paid in advance of completion of the work.

Q.—Don't you consider it remarkable that the figures of Kennedy & McDonald were just a trifle above those of your company?

A.—I don't know anything about that.

Q.—Did not the N. S. Construction Company pay you \$100,000 for securing the contract?

A.—Yes.

Q.—About the receipt for \$100,000, did you send it after Mr. Cozzolino gave his evidence.

A.—I did whatever I was asked to do by them in that particular case. I might have dated the receipt back.

Q.—Were the receipts made out after the investigation started?

A.—I don't think so. They were sent as soon as they were made out.

Mr. Jones—Mr. Lindsay stated in his evidence that he did not receive them until after the investigation was started.

Mr. Stevens—You cashed a check for \$100,000 at the Royal Bank and took away \$40,000. What did you do

Just remember the name

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(Continued on page 4.)