

MR. DAGGETT BORROWED \$3,000 FROM MR. BAXTER

(Continued from page 3.)

Some Offers

The letter referred to asked for at least a share of the business and offered to handle the whole business on a five per cent commission, with the statement that the potatoes should be bought at from ninety cents to \$1 a barrel.

Q.—That was lower than you paid?

A.—That was not a definite offer.

Q.—The prevailing export price was eighty cents?

A.—Not at that time; it dropped after we bought.

Q.—You answered the letter?

A.—I presume I did.

Another letter from the same company, dated September 15, 1914, was identified and put in evidence.

This letter offered 100,000 bushels of the best potatoes f.o.b. the cars, at \$1.10 a barrel.

On September 17, Mr. Daggett replied that all the potatoes had been bought except about ten cars, and that they were getting them without trouble and at the right price.

The company replied on September 19, offering to supply the remaining ten cars at cost paid to farmers, donating their services for handling and shipping.

The witness said the offer was not accepted, but he could not remember why not. He admitted it was a generous offer.

Q.—Did you have any offers to donate potatoes free of any expense?

A.—May have been some, but I can't recall any.

The witness admitted that in ordering the potatoes he did his best to help his friends "as anyone would do."

He instructed various persons to supply potatoes, ordering more than 100,000 bushels so as to have some to choose from.

One for "Andy"

A letter was submitted from the witness to Howard Douglas, dated October 6, in which he referred to a visit from John A. Humble who wanted to supply potatoes and said he had a promise from Hon. H. F. McLeod. Mr. Daggett said they had all the potatoes they wanted and more too but asked Mr. Douglas if he could let Humble ship 400 barrels on his order. Mr. Douglas replied stating that he had less use for Humble than for some one else.

The witness said that when they could, they were buying Irish cabbages potatoes as they were earlier than other varieties. He did not remember any complaint about Mr. Smith shipping Green Mountain potatoes. They had instructions to send Green Mountains if Mr. Smith considered them fit. The witness did not remember which variety went bad, he supposed some of both.

As to Former Evidence

Q.—At the last session you said there were practically no returns from the Cuban shipments.

A.—Yes. I thought you mean the net returns, what the government received.

Q.—But your answer was incorrect?

A.—No, no. I must have misunderstood you.

Q.—But you knew there were some returns from Cuba.

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you knew of them, had examined Mr. Smith's books and sent

an auditor in?

A.—Yes.

The witness said that he did not remember receiving a copy of the auditor's report. He did not remember of the auditor taking certain vouchers and turning them over on him. He would not dispute the figures.

When the account on which settlement was made with A. C. Smith & Company was produced the witness said it looked as if it had been made up in his office from the vouchers. He supposed Mr. Atherton, the auditor, had given him vouchers.

Regarding the settlement with Mr. Smith, the witness said they had considerable discussion and he (the witness) told Mr. Smith that the charges were too heavy, and he would cut them down. He did so and Mr. Smith protested that he had not been used right and that he hoped to be able some time to get what was due him. The witness considered the settlement final.

Frequent Reports

The witness had reported almost daily to the premier, Mr. Clark, and his minister, Mr. Murray, regarding the transactions and kept them fully informed.

There were some returns from the Mineola shipments said the witness.

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It is truly wonderful how fascinating most things are to people that are none of their business.

When he went to Cuba the second time it was to see if the matter was exactly as it had been represented. The two cargoes by the Irma Bentley and Mineola had turned out very badly.

There was a loss of \$3,000 when all accounts were settled up. He said, "I settled that myself and never have received one cent back." Says he is out of pocket.

The witness produced a document and said, "I have held this as a claim against the government, which I never intended to put in."

Mr. Hughes—"A claim you never would put in."

Witness—"Unless I had to. I am now out of pocket just that much."

When he got the account the witness said he told the minister that he wanted to go down an investigate. He had a letter from Mr. Waite, telling him that he had borrowed money to finance the transaction and the loss would be likely to bankrupt him. He was so sorry for the boy, a young man from Andover, that he took the money with him and went down. When he found everything was correct he paid Waite the money nearly \$3,000. It was his own money; he did not get from anyone, from railway contractors or anyone else.

The statement he produced dealt only with the charges of the Irma Bentley. If he had said it covered the Mineola he was mistaken. He must have been mistaken when he had said previously that the account from the auditor-general's files was a complete record of the Mineola transaction. He had not been able to find his own record of that cargo.

Checking over the account the witness said that he could not explain an item of interest on draft for freight. He did not know that the money to pay the freight had been forwarded from Canada. J. C. Manzer had checked up all the bills for him and found it correct. The bills were in Spanish and were no good to him, so he had left them with Mr. Manzer.

"When there is a loss it is the shipper's loss, even if there is a sales contract," said the witness. The consignee finds some way to get out of it. They were no worse than other dealers in Toronto or St. John.

Q.—You say you took the money down with you."

A.—Yes.

Q.—There is a draft for \$400 against you.

A.—I paid that before I went down.

Q.—You borrowed that money that you took down.

A.—It was my own money. You have no right to ask where I got it.

Got it From Mr. Baxter

After some further discussion on the point the commissioner asked, "Do you refuse to answer where you got the money?"

A.—I borrowed it.

Q.—Was it a genuine borrow or an advance?

A.—A genuine borrow.

Q.—Have you repaid it yet?

A.—(After some hesitation) No.

Q.—It was a member of the government from whom you borrowed it.

A.—Yes.

Q.—You told him about the difficulty you were in and he loaned you the money.

A.—It was Mr. Baxter.

The witness was examined further regarding J. C. Manzer's knowledge of the potato shipments and said he could not understand the latter's letter saying that he had received none and that other consignees had not.

Regarding the payment of salary to the potato inspector, the witness did not know until he read the evidence that Mr. Slipp had sold culls and credited the \$125 against his salary. Payments of \$82.65 for expenses and \$172.50 salary to L. E. Slipp were found in the auditor-general's report for 1915. The witness presumed this was the complete account and could not see that Mr. Slipp had credited the \$125 he had collected.

Q.—To what is that charged?

A.—To instruction and inspection agricultural work.

Q.—And to what account?

A.—The Dominion subsidy.

Q.—You ordinarily would indicate to what account a bill would be charged.

A.—Yes, but sometimes the auditor general would change it.

The court here took recess until 2.30 p. m.

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