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BATHURST LUMBER COMPANY HOLDS RECORD SO FAR

(Continued from Page One.)

relevant.
Mr. Teed—If Mr. Berry did certain things outside his powers as superintendent of sealers surely it is not admissible here.

The question was not allowed.
Q.—Did Mr. Berry tell you that it would be necessary to pay \$15 a mile to have your lands classified?
This was objected to and Mr. Carvell said he wanted to get his questions on record.

Mr. Carter—And in the morning papers.

Mr. Carvell—Yes, and in the morning papers. We are here to get to the bottom of the thing and we are not afraid to let the readers of the papers know what is going on.

Q.—You saw Mr. Brankley?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And Mr. Berry again?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What did he say?

A.—He asked if I had agreed with Mr. Brankley.

Q.—Agreed about what?

Objected to. ...

Q.—Was there anything heard between you and Mr. Berry about \$15 a mile for political purposes?

A.—No. I merely told him I had agreed with Mr. Brankley.

Q.—And did Mr. Brankley ask you for \$15 a mile for political purposes?

Objected to.

Q.—What happened next?

A.—I asked Mr. Berry what our classification would be.

A.—He said Class B, \$75 a mile.

Q.—I asked if that was on his own authority.

A.—He said that he was delegated by the government to put this thing through.

Q.—But some of your lands were first put on Class A.

A.—Those were lands we took over but they were all reduced afterwards to Class B.

Q.—Did you agree to Mr. Brankley's proposition?

A.—I agreed to Mr. Berry's proposition through Mr. Brankley.

Q.—What was that?

A.—To put up \$15 a mile for political purposes.

Q.—Did you do so?

A.—Yes, \$4,500 on June 27, the next day.

Q.—Did you receive instructions from Berry as to how it was to be paid?

A.—Yes. I was to pay it to Mr. Brankley.

Q.—How did you do it.

A.—I went to the bank and got a certified check payable to John E. Moore of St. John.

Q.—Why to him?

A.—Mr. Berry said to do so.

Q.—Why a check?

A.—I wanted some receipt.

Q.—What did you do with it?

A.—I put it into an envelope, carried it to Mr. Brankley's office and put it in a bag which Mr. Berry took from his drawer. There were other envelopes in the bag.

Q.—Did Mr. Brankley seem pleased?

A.—No, disgusted. (Laughter.)

Q.—Did you see Mr. Berry?

A.—Not then. I went back to the office and Mr. Berry called me on the phone and said that a certified check was not satisfactory. He wanted bank notes or a bank draft. I went the cashier over to get the check and gave instead a bank draft on John E. Moore, St. John.

The certified check was produced identified and placed in evidence.

(Mr. Moore merely endorsed the draft and handed it to Berry, who called for it.)

The witness continued that the bank draft was taken to Mr. Brankley's office and paid for with the check.

Q.—Was this \$4,500 paid over and above the bonus paid to the government?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Wasn't it paid as a result of the proposition put up to you by Mr. Brankley, as the mouthpiece of Mr. Berry?

Objected to, but allowed.

A.—Yes.

Q.—And afterwards your lands were classified at \$75 an acre.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you consider \$75 is all your lands are worth?

A.—Too much.

Q.—Why?

A.—The lands are depleted and there has been a fire through them.

Q.—Did Mr. Berry ever suggest that you would pay more?

A.—No.

Q.—But you could not find out what the bonus would be until you had agreed to pay \$15 a mile to Mr. Brankley.

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Dated 17th day of June A.D. 1914

HENRY B. RAINSFORD,

Division Registrar, York.

2 ins.

A.—That is right.

Q.—Was Mr. Berry in Mr. Brankley's office when you deposited the check in the bag?

A.—Not that I know of.

Mr. Teed—What lands do you hold?

A.—Those of the Miramichi Company.

Q.—You think \$75 a mile too high for them?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What lands were first classified as A?

A.—Some held in conjunction with others.

Q.—What did you do about it?

A.—I went to the office of the department and protested.

Q.—And pointed out that none of your lands should be charged at more than \$75?

H

A.—Yes.

Q.—And they were all reduced to \$75?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What interest do you hold in the lands held conjointly with others?

A.—About two-thirds.

This ended Mr. Stevens' evidence.

SNOWBALL PAID \$7,200

Mr. W. B. Snowball gave evidence at the afternoon session. He testified in part as follows:—

A.—I paid \$7,200 at the rate of \$15 a mile on 480 miles, by cheque, deposited in the Bank of Montreal, Chatham, to the credit of J.W. Brankley.

The cheque was produced, shown payable to "cash" and introduced in evidence.

Q.—This was paid over and above your bonus?

A.—Yes.

Q.—at the time you paid it did you know that the classification was complete?

A.—Not definitely. Mr. Berry had told me previously that we would be charged 100 a mile.

Q.—Why did you pay this money?

This question invoked a lively discussion as to the admissibility of the evidence, Mr. Carvell arguing that it was a necessary part of the case. The question was modified and Mr. Snowball said the reason he paid was because the others had done so.

"If you want to know how I was influenced I cannot give what might be called a fact; it would rather be an inference."

Q.—Was the renewal of your license a matter of importance to you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Of such importance as to make you pay more than you believed them worth?

Mr. Angus McLean manager of the Bathurst Lumber Company was the next witness. He swore that his company had paid a bonus at the rate of \$100 a mile on the lands in which it is interested. He told of meeting Mr. Berry at the Hotel Lorraine, Chatham "He told me that we would have to pay \$100 a mile for the bonus and \$15 a mile for an outside fund."

Q.—What were the terms on which you can retain the lands?

The payment of the \$100 bonus and the additional \$15.

Q.—You have paid monies other than on your bonus?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How much?

A.—\$15,000 between 1st and 3rd of July, 1913, into the Bank of Montreal at Chatham to the order of Mr. Brankley.

Q.—As a result of your conversation with Berry?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How did it get into Mr. Brankley's hands?

A.—We deposited it at Bathurst with instructions to deposit it to Mr. Brankley's credit at Chatham.

Q.—When your licenses were issued was there any provision that the rate of stumpage was to be fixed for ten years?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you raise a question about it?

A.—Not at the time, but later. It was part of the agreement and our lumber organization took it up.

The witness was cross examined at some length by Mr. Teed but his testimony was not shaken.

RITCHIE PAID \$4,500

Hon. Allan Ritchie of Newcastle, swore that he paid \$4,500 to Berry for a campaign fund. He placed the money on a table in Mr. Brankley's office. He had previously talked the matter over with Mr. Berry.

Under cross examination the witness admitted that he had contributed to campaign funds on former occasions, but not to such a great extent.

Mr. E. H. Sinclair of the Sinclair Lumber Company, swore that he had paid \$3000 into a campaign fund at the request of Mr. Berry. This was in addition to the amount of the bonus.

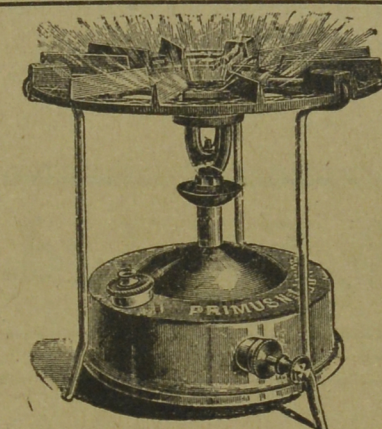
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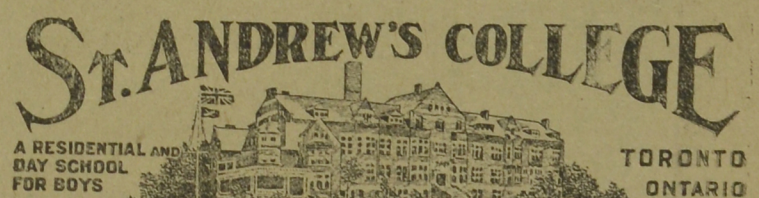
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Rev. D. BRUCE MACDONALD, M.A., LL.D. - Headmaster

and Baker, took the stand and denied that he had contributed to the political fund.

The commission adjourned at 4 p. m.

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Good appearances may be pleasant but solid realities are safer and more comfortable.