

Robertson & Co., all of whom were themselves in the trade. Also to the Toronto University, the Canadian Telegraph Supply Company, &c., &c. He had also supplied Mr. Wagner, Superintendent of the Central Prison, in that gentleman's private capacity, with similar material at five cents to ten cents per pound within the last few months, and had charged him \$7.50 per day for the use of a machine when the Government only paid \$5. These transactions were altogether separate from Mr. Wagner, as Superintendent of the Prison, and were in connection with his private business. He knew Mr. Wagner well personally. He was an old builder and contractor, who had been in business in the city for many years. The firm of Ginty & Dickey had occasion to get a superintendent for a portion of the Toronto Water works, but not having anything like the responsibility which rested upon Mr. Wagner, and they paid him \$3 a day. The work done for the present Government by the firm of which witness is a member, was done for just the same price they would have charged anybody else, and in some cases less. The firm of Ginty & Dickey had the contract for a portion of the work on the Toronto Water-works, which corresponded to that they were doing for the Government, and which they got by tender after competition with other firms. They were paid thirteen cents a pound for these castings. Witness was here shown the account put in to the Government, in which the charges for globe valves appeared, and explained that they were made expressly for this work, under Mr. Tully's directions, to resist a pressure of from 150 to 200 pounds. No such valves could be got unless specially ordered, and could not be had at less prices than those charged for them in the account.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said the Government were perfectly willing that any respectable tradesman should examine these valves at the Central Prison works, and testify as to their value.

Mr. DICKEY further said that the slide valves which appeared in the account were also specially ordered, and were charged at fair trade prices.

By Mr. CAMERON—Mr. Dickey said he had done work on the Asylum in 1866 and 1868, the first of which was let by tender, and the contracts were finished in 1870 or 1871. In 1868 he did work to the amount of \$23,500. Mr. Carling was then Commissioner. This was iron bars for the verandahs, and was at the rate of eight cents a pound. He did not think it was put up for competition. The material was ordered from England, through Rice Lewis & Son, who, he thought, got a commission, and he was of opinion that the entire cost of the material to the firm was 2½ cents a pound. The papers connected with the transaction were still in existence, and he was quite willing to produce them. He would consider 15 per cent a fair profit upon a work like the Hospital, and 10 per cent upon general business. In connection with the Central Prison, he said he had furnished some iron to Mr. Harding, sub-contractor under Mr. Elliot. He thought he had spoken to Mr. Tully in connection with the work he was now doing at the Prison about the time the change was made in the system of conducting the work, and before Mr. McKellar desired him to tender; he had done so on becoming aware of that change. The prices of iron at the time witness had the contract from the Sandfield Macdonald Government were lower than they had been before or since, in his experience. The way he charged for work of the description done for the Government on the Central Prison, made from special patterns, was by charging for the time of the men and the cost of material. There was no one member of the firm specially charged with making these calculations; it was done by common consent. The things that made up the price of an article were the quantity and quality of material, the mode of construction, and the time consumed in making it. The valves in question were made of brass, steel, and iron. Brass was charged at 50 cents a pound, when, of the quality used in these valves; there were about 40 pounds in each; the iron for that class of casting would cost about 6 cents per pound, and there were about 100 pounds in each; and the steel, of which there were about 15 pounds in each, cost about 20 cents per pound. There were about 200 pounds weight in each of the casting, he presumed, but then there were also other materials used, besides those mentioned. Witness further said that he never saw a valve capable of resisting 200 pounds pressure for sale ready made; the usual working resistance of ready-made valves was about 100 pounds, and if of the ordinary construction, such a valve would cost about \$35; for the species of valve in

question, a special pattern was required, and it differed from the ordinary class in that it had a brass seat instead of a cast iron seat, which might take two or three days extra work, and if any difficulty were met with, it might take twice as long; in the ordinary valve the seat was cast with the body; in the present instance, the brass seat had to be specially cast and the casting drilled for its reception. The firm were in the custom of charging \$5 per day for a man at lathing work when he was sent out, which included the use of the tools; in the account in question, a machinist was put down at \$3 per day. The firm had not furnished a machinist from their shop for many years for less than \$3 per day. Referring to the statement of prices already mentioned, Mr. Dickey said it was an abstract made by one of his clerks from invoices of the firm. January, 1873, was chosen as one date probably because there was an invoice of that date in the possession of the firm, and they wished to be able to refer to it. From October, 1872, to January, 1873, pig iron fluctuated from \$44 to \$50; at the former date it was probably \$46. Pig iron fluctuated more than bar iron. Under the contract at the Asylum with the Sandfield Macdonald Government bar iron was mostly used, and it was not subject to the same fluctuating prices; whereas pig iron was more used on the Central Prison. Mr. Currie, and Dickey, Neill & Co. tendered for the work on the Central Prison, but they had no consultation in regard to the matter. Everything that his firm had done for the present Government at the Central prison, including the water supply, amounted to about \$29,000. He added that the season made very little alteration in the wages given to men in the employment of his firm, but the wages in other trades were so affected.

In reply to Mr. Cameron,

Mr. DICKEY added that when the firm took the contract for the Hospital, they added a note to their tender that they would do the work on the wings at the same price.

Mr. Dickey was then discharged.

Mr. CAMERON moved that as the whole time at the disposal of the Committee to-day has been taken up by the witness, Mr. Nathan Dickey, whose accounts have been called in question, and who was called at the instance of the Government by the Provincial Secretary; it be resolved that the Committee will hear only the evidence of witnesses tendered to impeach the correctness of the Government account before examining witnesses on behalf of the Government; otherwise it will not be possible to have the alleged objectionable items of the accounts investigated.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said this was another of the hon. gentleman's bunkum resolutions.

Mr. FAREWELL said it belonged to the Committee to decide from day to day, as circumstances arose, what witnesses should be called.

Mr. SINCLAIR said the hon. gentleman's desire seemed to be that at any rate his own evidence against the Government should be presented, but he on the other hand seemed just as willing that such witnesses as the Government tendered in defence should not be heard: so that in this manner he should have a one-sided story sent to the country.

The Committee then divided, when the motion was lost by 5 to 2.

The Committee adjourned at 2:30.