

fairness appeals to me as a joke after my experience with him."

The member for Grenville suggested that the Callahan retainer was for the purpose of securing information against the Shevlin-Clarke Company, which, Mr. Harding declared, was not the case. Mr. Callahan, he said, had given him certain information regarding irregularities which he (Callahan) alleged had been practised for years by the company in question. He wanted Mr. Harding to bring these before the Attorney-General, with the object of securing an investigating commission. He (Harding) had gone once before members of the Cabinet in connection with these allegations.

In the Public Interest.

The witness stated that he had begun his investigations in the Department of Lands and Forests late in February, 1920, and the commission had been issued about ten days later. In December, 1919, he admitted, in reply to a question, he had spoken to Mr. Justice Riddell, and had asked him if, in the event of an inquiry being ordered later by the Government, he would accept a commissionership. Justice Riddell, Mr. Harding stated, had replied that he would think it over, and if he thought it to be in the public interest he would accept.

On being told by the Attorney-General that he was appointed counsel, Mr. Harding said, and, further, that Mr. Justice Latchford was to be one commissioner, he had recommended that Mr. Justice Riddell be the other.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—You picked a good one.

The witness said that on his appointment as counsel he had not submitted the commission to their Lordships; he thought that the Attorney-General had done so.

Appeals to "Peter."

Coming to the \$50,000 item, Mr. Harding stated that this was made up of a vote of the House for \$25,000 and an accountable warrant for the rest. He had spent \$25,000 of his own money, he affirmed, before getting "one nickel from the Government."

"I said to Peter that I wanted some money—"

"Who is 'Peter'?" asked Hon. Mr. Ferguson.

"The Provincial Treasurer," corrected Mr. Harding.

"Do you mean to say that you went ahead and spent \$25,000 of your own money without any arrangement?" Mr. Ferguson persisted.

Mr. Harding then stated that, to the best of his memory, he had arranged that the Provincial Treasurer write to the General Manager of the Home Bank, Mr. Mason, regarding advances for expenses.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Was it an open letter?

Mr. Harding—I don't know. I'll get the letter from Mr. Mason and bring it here.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I'll be delighted. How many payments have been made to you?

Witness—Two; both for \$25,000.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson (later)—Did you pay the commissioners?

Witness—Yes.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—How much?

Witness—\$2,000 each, on account.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—When?

Witness—It's in the public accounts.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—No, it isn't. That's why I'm asking.

Disbursements and Fees.

Turning to the costs of timber inquiry, Hon. Mr. Ferguson asked the witness what his total disbursements were in connection with the probe.

Mr. Harding—My bookkeeper and auditor will be able to tell you more about that than I can. I think it is about \$71,000 or \$72,000.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—It may be more?

Witness—Yes.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—That doesn't include your own fees?

Witness—No, except \$2,000 on account.

Regarding his personal account, Mr. Harding at first stated that he could not make an estimate. Later he said that the amount would be based upon a per diem fee, regarding which he had not made up his mind. To this Hon. Mr. Ferguson retorted: "Be frank. What does the Government owe you?"

"I think I ought to have \$50 per day for preparation and \$100 per

day for court," replied Mr. Harding.

On this basis Hon. Mr. Ferguson worked out a total charge of about \$12,000 for Mr. Harding's personal services, which, he said, must be added to the total disbursement of \$72,000 already referred to, as must also outstanding accounts.

Employment of Rochester.

Regarding the employment of Rochester, Mr. Harding stated, at first, that he had paid that gentleman "over \$20,000." This reply he altered, in a few moments, to "\$33,000 to \$35,000." Rochester, he said, had been introduced to him by Mr. Hurdman, and his duties were in connection with the Shevlin-Clarke Company, in the Fort Frances district. Returning to the matter of the Callahan retainer, Mr. Ferguson suggested that the latter person had secured "the back benefit of all that was done by Rochester."

"That whole \$35,000 of Provincial money was spent on the Shevlin-Clarke area while you held a retainer from Callahan?" he queried.

"No. Not to do that."

Asked if it were not a fact that this amount of Provincial money had been spent to satisfy a retainer Mr. Harding had secured from Callahan to investigate Shevlin-Clarke affairs, the witness replied:

"No. That is not so."

How Backus Met Premier.

Mr. Harding stated that he had first introduced Mr. E. W. Backus to Premier Drury. At that meeting he did not know whether or not the purchase of timber rights on certain claims had been discussed. It might have been talked about, he said, and he believed "it had since turned out to be the English River limit."

Regarding A. D. George, solicitor of the Backus interests, he declared that he had had no negotiations with him in any form whatever. Warned by Hon. Mr. Ferguson that he was to be "very careful" regarding the answer to this question, the witness swore that he never, directly or indirectly, communicated with Mr. George in connection with the Backus deal, or with any business affairs of Mr. Backus or his associates that were in any way connected with matters that had come before

"FLAG AND FLEET" REMAINS ON LIST

Minister Has Not Read It and Will Wait Judgment at Revision

Asked by A. C. Lewis (Southeast Toronto) as to the intentions of the department with regard to "Flag and Fleet," which is among those books recommended for educational reading, Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, stated in the Legislature yesterday that the book would remain among those recommended at least until the end of the present school term. In June, he said, the whole list would be revised by a committee of public school inspectors.

"'Flag and Fleet' is one of a list of 28 recommended books on English literature for school libraries," said the Minister. "Four of this list, comprising both prose and poetry, and containing in the aggregate at least 600 pages, shall be read by candidates during the year preceding the examination for high school entrance. Wood's 'Flag and Fleet' is the only book on this list that has been specifically recommended. It is evident, for this reason, therefore, that it would be unwise to officially interfere with its position in the schools at this time, that is, in the middle of a school term. Therefore, it has not been withdrawn. As is usual, the whole list will be revised in June next by a committee of public school inspectors. So far, I have not read 'Flag and Fleet.' I hope to do so before the list is revised, and until I do I cannot personally express an opinion as to its merits."