

1922 bank accounts covering the transactions reported in the missing records of the Browning concern, but he believed they could be found. He produced receipt for stock purchased in the Browning concern and handed it in to the committee.

**Shadowed in Detroit.**

Mr. Currie—A friend of mine told me he saw you in Detroit? A.—Yes.

Q.—Were you talking to Matthews? A.—No sir.

Q.—My information is? A.—Why don't you get after the man that shadowed me to Detroit?

Q.—Was there a man shadowed you? A.—Yes, and is still. I said to him at the station, I will give you a ride up and save the Government taxi fare.

Q.—Well, when I am informed you did see Matthews— A.—It is an absolute lie.

Q.—Did you see Mason? A.—No, nobody.

Mr. Biggs said he went to his aunt's funeral in Detroit, and was accompanied all the time by friends there who could substantiate his whole movements.

**No Desire to Sidestep.**

Mr. Currie— You think you have told us all about this Peter Smith thing? A.—I don't know anything about the Treasurer's Department. But I have no desire to sidestep the fact that certain Order-in-Council were passed while I was a member of that Government.

Q.—Did you think he was paying too much for those securities? A.—It all depends on the value that was placed on the securities. I know where succession duty free bonds have been used three times in two years in the same family to escape succession duties.

Mr. Biggs said there was considerable discussion in Cabinet Council of the Drury Government about the purchase of these securities, and he contended that the bonds bought at par was a good stroke of business for the Province.

**WHITTAKER SAID 'NO' IN ANSWERING QUERY**

**Emphatic in Denial That He Received Any of \$25,000**

**ERROR IN TRANSCRIBING**

Messrs. Foy, Knox, Monahan, Keogh & Middleton, solicitors for Joseph C. Whittaker, formerly Supervisor of the Home Bank, who gave evidence before the Legislative Public Accounts Committee at its sittings on Wednesday, directed the attention of The Globe last evening to a serious error which had occurred in the report of Mr. Whittaker's evidence which appeared in yesterday's issue.

While being examined by members of the committee concerning his evidence on the statement of J. Cooper Mason to him that M. J. Haney was taking \$25,000 to the Parliament Buildings, the question was asked of Mr. Whittaker: "Did you get any of that money?" Mr. Whittaker replied by an emphatic "No," whereas the report, by a most unfortunate error, reads "Yes."

It is needless to say that The Globe sincerely regrets this error and is glad to have this opportunity of correcting it immediately and of expressing to Mr. Whittaker its apology therefor. Mr. Whittaker was emphatic in his evidence that he had neither seen nor handled the money, nor did he know what was done with it. The Globe is glad that the context of his evidence as reported in this paper goes to make clear the fact that the misquotation of his answer to the question was unmistakably an error.

**PURGE CIVIL SERVICE OF ALL WRONGDOERS, DECLARES PREMIER**

**Announces That Investigations Into Provincial Departments Will Continue, and That Law Will Be Set in Motion Against All Offenders**

**AIMS TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Discussing Report of Public Accounts Committee, W. E. N. Sinclair and Manning Doherty Protest That No Reference Is Made to Loan of 1919**

If any bond or any financial transaction under Conservative, Liberal or Farmer rule came within the scope of the criminal law, the Government would seek out the opportunity to prosecute to the very limit the man "who has brought blemish on the good name of the Province," was the declaration of Premier Ferguson in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, in a short debate which followed the presentation of the report of the Committee on Public Accounts.

**Not Unanimous, Says Doherty.**

The report was presented by Chairman William Finlayson (Conservative, East Simcoe), and immediately Hon. Manning Doherty, Progressive Leader, said that the report had not received the unanimous approval of all the members of the committee. There were certain transactions referred to, he said, upon which it was said certain specific losses had been suffered by the Province. "In this respect I am forced to disagree with the report as made," he said. There were other transactions in review which he had asked the Chairman to include in his report, but which were not referred to. By this he meant, he said, the profit made by the Home Bank on bonds sold to the Province in September, 1919.

Provincial Treasurer Price interrupted to say that there also was no mention in the report that there was one-quarter of 1 per cent. paid by the Jarvis firm. Criminal actions had arisen out of these facts, he said, and it was not wise to mention them.

Mr. Doherty said he was not aware that criminal charges had arisen out of the Home Bank loan. He did think, he said, that, since the estimated profits made by the Jarvis firm had been mentioned, it would have been fair if reference also had been made "to the profits made on the other loan of September, 1919."

**Was Outstanding Feature.**

W. E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, said that he himself thought that the same specific reference should have been made to the 1919 transaction, which was investigated on Wednesday, "because it was one of the outstanding features of the Public Accounts Committee's investigation."

"The public have the facts of all the matters which came before the committee in the evidence now before the House, and which later is to be published, and the public have the facts also through the press reports," said Mr. Sinclair. The report of a Public Accounts Committee, as he looked on it, he said, was a more or less formal matter, and

while, for some reason, certain matters had been passed by in the report, still the House and the public were able to take cognizance of them.

"I do not concur altogether in the report which this committee has presented to the House, but I realize the whole evidence is before the House and the public, and the report here is only a formal report," Mr. Sinclair concluded.

**Finlayson Surprised.**

Chairman Finlayson expressed surprise at the objections. As Chairman, he said, he had informed the committee that he had preferred not to draw up the report, but the committee's instructions were for him to do so. The report had been presented to the committee, had been gone over clause by clause and discussed, and, he declared, the Liberal Leader had approved of every paragraph. It was a delicate matter to mention certain things when criminal proceedings might result from any sitting of a committee, he said. There might arise a very delicate question of civil liability in the Jarvis firm case, and he thought it would be exceedingly improper to discuss these in the committee or in the report.

Mr. Sinclair said that he had raised his point of objection in the committee, and R. H. Kemp (Progressive, Lincoln) also said that he had objected to the report.

**Premier Commends Report.**

Premier Ferguson said that the committee had not made any findings, and the evidence and the exhibits had been given to the House. Quite properly, the report referred to the outstanding features, but it made no reflection or findings on anybody. The committee properly refrained from mentioning matters now before the courts.

"I would like to say to the House," the Premier continued, "that the serious developments that have occurred of late are the culmination of a series of audits and investigations which this Government undertook when it came into office, and we shall carry them on to completion. The position the Government desired to take was that it would keep its good name absolutely above suspicion during its term as the administrator of public affairs. We felt that we were entitled to know exactly what the situation was when we assumed power, and we are determined to purge the public service of every unworthy member of it. That's what we intend to do."

**After Wrongdoers.**

Continuing, the Premier said they looked for, and expected, the hearty co-operation of the civil servants. The majority of the civil servants were entirely worthy of the utmost confidence. Until recently he would have made no qualification whatever. But discoveries of late had led them to the conclusion that it was necessary, for the protection of the public interest and the vindication of the public honor, "that there should be a vigorous and thorough

inquiry into every branch of the service and into every man's administration, and, according as the facts and revelations warrant, the long arm of the law will stretch out, and there will be no consideration given to the man who has been a wilful wrongdoer."

**"Prosecute to the Limit."**

In view of certain things that had appeared in the press, and a hint, he might say an innuendo, made by the member for East Kent (Mr. Doherty), the Premier declared that if any bond or financial transaction, "carried on under Conservative, Liberal or Farmer rule, comes within the scope of the criminal law, this Government will not only not hesitate, but will seek out the opportunity, to prosecute to the very limit the man who has brought a blemish on the good name of the Province."