

March 27

Mr. Morrison drew from Walker the admission that to John Hicks, a neighbor, he had said after the dispute about Mrs. Barnes's house, he had said "something like": "I'll get Gunning yet."

"That being the case, you started out to make allegations against Gunning's character," said Mr. Morrison. "I want to see that affidavit of Fife's that you mentioned in your letter."

#### Affidavit Handed Over.

Walker said he had handed the affidavit to Fife's wife, and it had never been returned to him. He was reminded that Fife had denied ever making the affidavit, and was asked: "Who's telling the truth?"

"I am, so help me God," he declared.

Asked why he had parted with the document, he said: "I didn't think Fife would double-cross one man and

then turn around and double-cross another."

With Mr. Macaulay resuming the questioning, Walker was asked if he realized now that the Province had never been defrauded by the irregular methods of bookkeeping, whereby payments for hire of Gunning's truck were made as team-time in Fife's name. Walker was unable to answer, merely saying he had turned his information over to the Government. He admitted, however, that if he had known the full circumstances he never would have made the charges. He agreed that he had learned the circumstances in the course of the slander action.

"That being the case, why did you hand this sheaf of papers to the Liberals?" asked Mr. Macaulay. Walker denied that he had done so, but agreed that he had made a declaration subsequently, and delivered it to Mr. Foley.

"You were egged on to political enterprise in January, although you knew long before there was no fraud nor dishonesty," continued the Minister. "Why were you silent, who put pressure on you?" Nobody had, said Walker. Nobody had "overpersuaded" him.

#### Letter to Premier.

He admitted that Mr. Foley had helped him prepare his letter to the Premier, and that he had copied sections which had been dictated by the lawyer. He denied that he ever had told Mr. Munro that money had been paid to dead men for highway work. Powell, the man in question, had died after the payments had been made. As for "fictitious persons," he would not swear to it.

As for the payments to John Brown, Treasurer of Talbotville United Church, he knew that the church shed had been rented for storing road equipment, but he did not think this excused "falsifying pay sheets" so that payment was made for team-hire. But so far as public appreciation of graft charges was concerned, he admitted that that was a different matter.

Mr. Morrison re-entered the examination to press his effort to prove hard feeling had existed between Walker and Gunning. Walker admitted that there had been a certain amount of hard feeling.

"And this was the method you used to get even?" After long hesitation, he said, "Yes."

Cameron Sutton of Talbotville testified concerning work done on the highway by Gunning's sons. He would not dispute statements made by Gunning concerning the time the sons had put in on the highway. He, too, had stayed in the King Edward Hotel last week, but denied talking with Walker about it. To a Liberal question, he said that he never had seen Mr. Munro before.

William Hicks, Talbotville farmer, recalled that at "corn-cutting time, fall before last," he had heard Walker promise to "get even" with Gunning.

The last witness heard, Mr. Macaulay said: "Well, this brings to an end this mare's nest. Mr. Munro has made a statement to the public of this Province that he had been misled, and used—." Here Mr. Munro interposed a denial of the statement. Continuing, Mr. Macaulay repeated that Mr. Munro had admitted being

misled and used into giving publicity to statements contrary to fact. He objected that, contrary to custom, no warning had been given to the Minister concerned when the charges were being made in the House. He said Mr. Macaulay, could have settled the whole matter then and there. The Minister considered that Mr. Munro had "pledged his position as a member, his seat in the House," on proving that highway funds had been misused. It was a serious charge, one that had gone out "in big headlines" all over the Province. The charges had "exploded before the thing was given him to explode in the House," said Mr. Macaulay, adding that not a dollar had been misused, and there had been no dishonesty. "I think Mr. Munro should withdraw his serious charges, which occupied nearly half the front page of The Globe," concluded the Minister.

Mr. Munro first regretted the Minister's absence from the House on the night he had laid the charges. He himself had not known before the sit-

ting that he would be called on to make the charges.

He did not consider the investigation unwarranted, said Mr. Munro, and he believed that it had served a good purpose. Perhaps it had not proved the charges, but it had disclosed that a foreman was employing himself through the names of other people. Such a circumstance not only "gives rise to grave suspicion, but opens the door to all sorts of fraud and dishonesty." About twenty people had been entered on the payroll as contributing labor, when, as a matter of fact, they were selling something or getting rent. The door was opened to "illegal, wrongful practice, and the whole thing left in the hands of the foreman."

"I have no regrets," he concluded, "as I think the work of the committee has not been in vain, and has disclosed irregularities."

Mr. Macaulay contended the irregularities had since been corrected. He pressed Mr. Munro to withdraw, but this the Liberal member declined to do.