

take the wood, instead of carrying out his part of the contract, used the concession in freight rates granted Huston as a lever to get a similar reduction in freight rates from his own limits in Northern Ontario to Fort Frances, and, having secured that reduction, renounced his agreement with Huston, or, rather, he told him he would take 10,000 cords and no more."

Threatened With "Rough Stuff."

When Huston came to Fort Frances to press his claims, Mr. Lewis said, he threatened to make the whole transaction public, and was said to have told a friend that he had been threatened over the telephone with "rough stuff." Three days after his arrival his body was found in a field.

"The man who had broken the contract and was interested in securing the documents," continued Mr. Lewis, "was E. W. Backus of International Falls, and before Provincial Inspector Jeffry left Toronto to take up the investigation into this case he had an interview with R. T. Harding, one of Backus' solicitors, and then left for Fort Frances to undertake the investigation; and almost before he left the train he made the statement that he had been sent up to investigate this 'case of suicide.' He went up with his mind firmly fixed on suicide, and the peculiar thing is that R. T. Harding, with whom he had discussed this matter, visited Fort Frances shortly after, and, in speaking to Capt. Huston's brother, said: 'Sorry, but it's a plain case of suicide.' There is evidence that all along the line there was a desire to settle on this young man the stigma of taking his own life, and not until the 18th of February did the Attorney-General offer a reward for the capture of those responsible for his death."

Will Not Be More Specific.

Attorney-General Raney sought to draw a specific statement or charge from Mr. Lewis, asking if he correctly understood him to suggest "that the man whom he has named was guilty of bringing about the death of this young man," and did he suggest that "a professional man was privy to the diversion of an officer of justice from his duty in connection with the inquiry into the facts?" Mr. Lewis, however, said he was not responsible for the Attorney-General's understanding or impressions.

He proceeded, however, to a re-statement as follows: "What I have said, and what I repeat, is this: that this young man was found killed under circumstances so plain that anybody could see he had not killed himself. I repeat that there was one man with whom he had been in a business deal—I do not say that man was responsible for his death—but I do say there was one man in whose interest it was to secure the papers he was supposed to have on him, and I do say that the officer deputed by the Attorney-General to investigate had an hour's conference with R. T. Harding before he left Toronto, and you may take whatever inference you like from it."

To Mr. Raney Mr. Lewis admitted he had not placed his "clue" with the Attorney-General or any of his subordinates. He said it was not

necessary. He repudiated the suggestion that Huston was in financial difficulties, and read a letter from Huston's sister which said that he was credited with more than \$10,000 at the beginning of the year.

Some Pointed Queries.

Mr. Lewis demanded to know why Inspector Jeffry had gone back to England; who suggested that Mr. Jeffry interview Mr. Harding. "Why was no attempt made to trace the ex-convict seen in Fort Frances the day Huston was killed, but who disappeared the same night and hasn't been seen since, a man known to the police of that section, and a man who, early last year, had shot a detective in the employ of a lumber company whose limits certain officials of the Backus company were

investigating on their own hook?"

Attorney-General Raney denied the charge of laxity on the part of his department; quoted departmental reports to show the promptness with which his men were on the job; and mentioned the proffered \$1,000 reward. He admitted that Mr. Jeffry

had resigned while the commissioner was probing an accusation against him of accepting a bribe from bootleggers.

This latter circumstance, Mr. Lewis held, cast a doubt over Mr. Jeffry's whole investigation.

"An investigation will be at once authorized and the honorable gentleman will be summoned as a witness," said the Attorney-General, interrupting a demand for investigation.

After the House rose for the dinner hour the Attorney-General was asked what form the investigation would take.

"A commission," he replied.

"Does that mean a Royal Commission?" A.—That is the only kind of commission we can appoint.

Drury Promises Municipalities Representation on Chippawa Inquiry

CLASHES WITH MAYOR

Meeting a delegation of 200 representatives of the Municipal Hydroelectric Association who waited upon him at the Parliament Buildings yesterday morning, Premier Drury promised to place a representative of the municipalities on the Hydroelectric Inquiry Commission if six or eight names of men "not committed up to the neck" were submitted.

After the meeting the Premier said his statement to this effect to the delegation was a definite promise if "they give some names reasonably acceptable."

Does Not Like Mayor.

The Premier said also that the Government did not contemplate a "flat rate" for Hydro and was not considering changes in the Hydro Act. He crossed words, virtually, with Mayor Maguire of Toronto, and said of him that he "did not like him" and "would rather not meet him." He suggested that Mayor Maguire stay away from the Parliament Buildings.

The delegation, which was met by the Premier, the Attorney-General and Col. Dougall Carmichael, asked that there be no change in the Hydroelectric Power Act or the Hydroelectric Railways Act; that the municipalities should be given direct representation on the Hydroelectric Commission, and that more aid should be given to rural power lines. The deputation wished to protest also against any flat rate or zone rate for Hydro, and against the appointment of the Royal Commission to investigate Chippawa without first consulting the municipalities.

T. J. Hannigan, Guelph, who headed the delegation, said that they regretted that the Royal Commission had been appointed without consulting the municipalities.

No Flat Rate, Says Drury.

Mayor Maguire said the deputation represented a million and a half people and they wanted no change made in the Power or Radial Acts until the people directly interested had been consulted. They had heard about a flat rate, he told the Premier.

"There is absolutely no flat rate to be adopted," said the Premier. Neither he himself nor the Attorney-General was considering changing the Hydro Power Act.

"The personnel of the Gregory Commission is alarming to us," said Mayor Maguire. "We are not satisfied, and do not think it right for a man to be on that commission who has opposed Hydro since its inception."

Sam Carter, Guelph, supported the request that the municipalities should have been consulted when the Royal Commission was appointed. "We will never accept the report of the Gregory Commission until one of our own representatives is placed on it," he said.