

Gerald Waring Reporting

OTTAWA — The fact that the government paid Walter C. Thomson, Liberal M.P. and Provincial Liberal leader in Ontario nearly a quarter of a million dollars in legal fees over the last four-and-one-half years is at least a most interesting commentary on Canadian political patronage.

Thomson received \$232,135 from the Government for work done for the Department of Veterans Affairs since Jan. 1, 1947. The Progressive Conservatives are trying to present this fact to the public as a great scandal. On the other hand, Thomson vigorously denies that he was overpaid for his work.

The amount, of course, is staggering. And there seems little doubt that Thomson got the work on the basis of party patronage. But there is also no reason to assume automatically that the country didn't get good value for the money spent.

That this is obviously political patronage isn't too shocking. Almost invariably the Government of the day hands its legal jobs to lawyers of its own political faith. That's the way it's always been done, so that it's accepted as normal procedure.

The most unusual thing about the Thomson case is that he got so much of the money. He was retained to obtain abstracts of titles, tax certificates and real estate records, and to see to the execution of the settlement of an estate under the Veterans' Land Act. And his territory was all of southern Ontario.

The volume of this comparatively simple legal business which was handed to him was tremendous. He opened branch offices, and engaged a large staff. During one 15-month period, he earned

CANADA
PROVINCE OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
IN THE PROBATE COURT
The 5th day of June A.D., 1951
In Re Estate of KATE McLEOD late of Mount Vernon in Queen's County in the said Province, Single Woman, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of Queen's County or any Constable or Literate person within said County

GREETING:
WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Duncan J. Riley of Belle River in Queen's County aforesaid, Merchant, and Chester Martin of Caledonia in Queen's County aforesaid, Merchant, Executors of the above named estate, they praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth:

You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County, in the said Province, on Wednesday the 11th day of July next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to shew cause if any they can why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of D. L. Mathieson, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner.

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown aforesaid, at or near the store of Chester Martin, Caledonia aforesaid, and at or near the store of D. J. Riley, Belle River aforesaid, so that all persons interested in the Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown in Queen's County, the day and year first above written.

By the Court,
(Sgd.) H. L. PALMER,
Registrar.

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\$172,252. In cases in which he employed no outside agent, he was paid at the rate of \$30 per case, plus disbursements.

Another lawyer, who also does work for the government on occasion, told me that "I wouldn't touch one of those cases for \$30."

Perhaps not. But Thomson wasn't offered one; he obviously got thousands, and organized his business on a mass production basis.

Thomson reported that he spent about \$64,000 obtaining the title abstracts and other documents, and another \$45,000 paying his staff. That left a balance of more than \$83,000 for 15 months' work. A sizeable fee indeed, but it's not unusual for some lawyers to earn fees as high or higher.

Despite patronage, the Government doesn't usually hire incompetent lawyers. And the rate of remuneration isn't usually high. "Ten dollars an hour is the most you can get from the Government," one lawyer commented.

But simple arithmetic shows that Thomson's net of \$63,000 for 15 months means that on the basis of a 40 hour week he was paid at a rate of nearly \$25 an hour. That could be the result of a tremendous volume of business handled quickly. Or it could be that Thomson, because of his political connections, received more favorable treatment than the government accords to other lawyers — which is what the Progressive Conservatives hope to prove.

Thomson already has claimed that if any lawyer cares to look into the record of the work done, he would find that "he would not have done the job as cheaply as I did." The Ontario Liberal leader also stated the other day that he would choose the time and

Sunday School Convention Held At Hampton Church

The South East Prince Sunday School Convention met at Hampton United Church on Friday, June 1st at 2 P.M. There were two sessions. The afternoon session was opened by a devotional service led by Rev. M. Woolfrey pastor of the church, assisted by three young girls. The President Mr. Otto Johnson, then introduced Mr. Dalrymple, Acting General Secretary of the M. R. E. C. who fittingly replied. The theme of the convention was taken from the 1950 World S. S. Convention in Toronto. "Jesus Christ Teacher and Lord." The minutes of the last convention were read by the Secretary Treasurer Miss Phyllis Britten, who also gave the financial report. Last year the convention came within \$3.00 of their allotment. Roll call was responded to by delegates from 9 different Sunday Schools.

Mr. Dalrymple then took charge of the meeting. The delegates were then divided into groups to discuss their objective in Christian Education. The afternoon meeting was brought to a close by Rev. Mr. Bacon pronouncing the Benediction. The evening session was opened by a devotional service conducted by the Tryon United Church Young Peoples group. Rev. Mr. Killam of the Tryon Baptist Church then explained the function of the M. R. E. C. and stressed our responsibility in maintaining it. After a study of the attendance chart, Mr. Dalrymple showed films of "Home life in the Holy Land." Mr. Brent Wood was appointed President for the en-

place to explain his collection of \$232,135 from the government. A lot of people will be awaiting his explanation with considerable eagerness.

suing year, with Rev. C. A. Britten as Vice President. Miss Florence Mabey was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. Miss Ruth Wright then gave her impressions of the S. S. Convention held in Toronto in 1950. Mr. Dalrymple closed the meeting by emphasizing the theme, "Jesus Christ Teacher and Lord." The closing Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Woolfrey.—W

NEW GLASGOW W. I.

The June meeting of New Glasgow W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Elmer MacDonald. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President took charge of the meeting. Meeting opened by singing the Institute Carol followed by repeating the Creed in unison. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Roll call was responded to by eleven members and one visitor by "Naming the place of your birth" and an interesting fact about it.

Members decided to provide lunches for Swift Canadian meeting which is to be held in the hall June 14th.

Reports of committees then followed.

New committees are as follows: School—Mrs. Foster Sellar and Mrs. Roy Dickleson (also to get prizes for school children). Sick—Mrs. R. W. Stevenson and Mrs. Richard Dickleson. Lunch—Mrs. Chalmers Laird and Mrs. Harland Hill. Programme—Mrs. Morton Lark-in and Mrs. Earl Houston.

Collectors were then appointed for the Salvation Army. A paper prepared and read by Mrs. Elbert Hill on "Citizenship" was then given and enjoyed by all. Mrs. Harland Hill and Mrs. W. J. MacLeod are the delegates to the orphanage meeting.

Mrs. George Dickleson, Mrs. Harland Hill and Mrs. Foster Sellar were appointed to get full particulars on music teacher.

Mrs. Richard Dickleson to prepare paper on "How to cut down housework in Summer Months, in order to enjoy gardening." Mrs. Revell Dickleson to give demonstration on "How to make crisp salad."

Mrs. Earl Houston invited members to her home for the next meeting. Roll call to be answered with "Suggestions and recipes of cold drinks for hot days."

Miss Ella Semple then read a poem entitled the "Garden of the Gulf."

Collection amounted to .91 cents one member paid dues. A delicious lunch was served by the committee in charge assisted by the hostesses.

Meeting closed by singing the National Anthem.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

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FRIDAY, JUNE 22 EMPIRE THEATRE, CHARLOTTETOWN

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Everybody Welcome

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There will be a prize for every entrant

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THURSDAY, JULY 5th at 6 P.M.

Sponsored by Beta Sigma Phi

Prizes to be awarded for best carriage, most original carriage, best costume and carriage, most original costume and carriage. Best tricycle, most original tricycle.

Address entry form below to Post Office Box No. 251, Charlottetown.

ENTRY FORM

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Tricycle

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