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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

PO CAL GOVERNMENT BOARD LIQUES.

For some another part operators his discombine both or the cite in the village of Dadsoy in some species of calls are believed allegery that Mr. William Smith, of Notice or Relations in the call of the calls are believed allegery that Mr. William Smith, of Notice or believed. aid, while acting as surveyor from 1887 to 1888, had ande false entries of payments in his books. When the anditor came to examine the accounts, these alegation ere placed before him, and he adjourned the audit to allow the parish an opportunity of taking the matter and to give Mr. Smith an opportunity of clearing his paracter. When he again visited Evesham for the purpose of passing the accounts, the state of affairs had not altered. and he again adjourned the audit. On his third visit Mr. Smith swore an affidavit that his accounts were correct, and on the strength of that the auditor passed the accounts. Since then the present surveyor, Mr. Thomas Byrd, as representing the parish, has placed the matter in the hands of solicitors, and a long correspondence has ensued between them and the Local Government Board. This culminated in the board allowing an inquiry to take place on an appeal from Mr. Byrd against the allowance has the public of Mr. Smith's assumes by the auditor of Mr. Smith's accounts.

The inquiry commenced on Monday morning in the Board-room at the Workhouse, before Mr. F. D. Longe, an inspector of the Local Government Board. Mr. Geoffrey New appeared for the parish, and Mr. Thomas Mace, Chipping Norton, represented Mr. Smith, who was also present in person. In the course of the day those present included Messrs. R. F. Tomes, J. Sladden, T. Byrd, E. Wilson (guardians) E. Wadams, J. Poole. C. Hall, G. Carter, W. Guardians) E. Wadams, J. Poole. C. Hall, G. Carter, W. Guardians), E. Wadams, J. Poole, C. Hall, G. Carter, W. Warmington, and several other inhabitants of Badsey, who

evinced great interest in the case.

GROUNDS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

The INSPECTOR, at the outset, said the inquiry was ordered by the Local Government Board in consequence of an appeal by Mr. Byrd against the allowance by the District Auditor of the accounts of Mr. Smith, who was surveyor for the parish for the year ended March last. The particular questions to be raised related to certain entries in Mr. Smith's accounts, which Mr. Byrd disputed; and though the items were of no very great amount, yet at the same time, as far as the credit of the parties was concerned. the questions raised were undoubtedly very important indeed, since Mr. Smith had taken upon himself to swear that his accounts were correct. He should deal with the case with the greatest strictness, and should take down most accurately the evidence given, and the matter would be decided by the Local Government Board. He was glad both parties were represented by professional gentlemen, because they would assist him in eliciting the truth.

A conversation then ensued between the Inspector and the solicitors relative to what course should be pursued. The Inspector said he thought each case should be taken separately, and this suggestion was accepted by Mr. New and Mr. Mace. Next some discussion took place as to what were the items in dispute, and these were then gone

through and noted.

Mr. Mace thought that the item marked No. 4 relative to Jacob Vicarage was withdrawn, and he read the letter from Messrs. New, Prance, and Garrard, dated November 26th, in which that was stated.

Mr. New explained that that applied to No. 4 in the original schedule, where the one they were alluding to was

marked No. 7.

A MISSING BOOK.

The INSPECTOR inquired where the original book kept by Mr. Smith was.

Mr. New replied that it had been forwarded to the Clerk of the Peace.

Mr. Byrd, however, corrected him, stating that it had been sent to the Local Government Board.

Mr. New said the Board had kept the book for several weeks, and Mr. Byrd had been obliged to buy a new one.

Mr. Mace remarked that it would be very difficult for them to proceed without the book.

Mr. Longs did not see how they could proceed.

different weeks in visits in the property of the property of a visit in the property of a visit in the property of a visit in the read in Osbober, 1887, and witness not able to remember it sow.

To Mr. New: A load or two of the soil was taken on to Mr. Smith's land. Clark was not employed digging

this up.

Mr. Smith said he took the office of surveyor, although he did not want it. He paid Clark IIs. for work for the week ending October 8th. Clark was also employed by him, but he was employed solely on the roads for the whole of this week. He paid the 2s. 2d. to Clark for five days work during the week ending March 17th. During those days he was employed solely on the roads. He would pay ISs. a week up to within about six weeks of Christmas. He would certainly pay that after Nov. 1st. He would begin paying ISs. a week again in the first week in April. During October, 1887, Clark was employed digging up the soil ready for carting. The bank removed was dangerous, because if a vehicle got off the road it would be overturned. He made the entries in his book on every Saturday when he made the payments.

day when he made the payments.

To Mr. New: Clark was doing nothing except moving the soil for the whole week ended March 8th. If Archer said he was not so employed he had made a mistake. Clark only worked on the roads on the two occasions. charged in his book. He was a very good labourer. He saw Clark at that work every day that week. He was quite sure that Clark was working all this time on the road. He should think that the soil had been removed and the bank levelled for 500 or 600 yards along the road towards Bretforton. Some of the ground was about two feet deep. There was a part of the bank left yet. He would swear that there was more than twenty yards of soil

removed.

George Baylis said he was a labourer, living at Bretforton. He was employed on the Badsey roads when Mr. Smith was surveyor. He assisted Archer in the work of moving the soil once or twice. No one worked with him and Archer in carting away the bank. He saw Clark digging up the bank once or twice. He did not think Clark was working at Michaelmas time. He should think the work would cover a distance of 100 yards along the road. He could not say whether Clark was at the work a whole week together."

After adjournment for luncheon, Mr. New stated that he should like to call further evidence as to the amount of

soil moved. There being no objection, he called

Charles Hall, a market gardener of Badsey, who said he was a ratepayer in Badsey parish. He could not say what length of soil had been moved, but most of what had been moved was from opposite Mr. Smith's garden. He could have dug all the soil off himself in four days. They were not at work a week together at it. He knew that because he saw the carts at other jobs.

JACOB VICARAGE'S CASE.

The next item was then gone into, and Jacob Vicarage was called. Before he was examined, a discussion arose as to what the amount in dispute was.—Mr. Mace contended that according to the schedule only is. 44d. was in dispute; but Mr. New argued that only 6s. 104d, had been paid instead of its as charged, for one week, and that nothing had been paid, instead of 6s. 10id., for the second week.

Vicarage said he was a labourer, living at Bretforton. He was employed by Mr. Smith to work on the roads, and began work about October, and coased work the last week of November or the beginning of December. He was at work on the reads during that time. He worked a full week for him—the second on third week he worked for him. That would be in October. He left off working for Mr. Smith on Thursday, and commenced work on a Manday. He did not know the day of the meath he left the week. Smith paid him 6s. 104d.

Another dispute areas as to the accounts, and some further discussion took place. Mr. Mace remarking that

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Start out not ste how they to end yet the book rote the local (for

Dyri said the book was sent to the colling, being returned it was sent to the Local Course

Phe Bases of Saroud a letter from Mr. Byrd to surrainent Board, dated December 7th, in a sed that he had, is requested, forwarded:

The New said they had never seen the black of the Extraction said be did not see how they of set unless fir. Made was prepared to take the or I house said as far as he was concerned by was taken. They that had no opportunity of a

The Instruction said it seemed is myster to the the

hr. New replied that the Beard wrete to Mr. Byre exemples which and tested bim to forward the book, and is not presented that the book, and is not presented that he was for the Maco and Mr. By say which is they could proceed without the book of all probably give them so more particular, than

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