

APPENDIX No. 3

A. And of course they had this office. I may say, however, in connection with it since then I know that a very large booking office was connected with this company so that perhaps they were the ones who looked after it. I do not know that myself of my own knowledge though.

Q. Did you discuss this matter with Mr. Preston or anybody ?

A. Afterwards ?

Q. When you found such a queer headquarters ?

A. I went expressly to see myself about the headquarters. That was in the winter of 1904.

By Mr. Foster :

Q. The beginning of what ?

A. The early part of the winter of 1904, February or March, I think, I made up my mind to go and see what they really had as to their office.

By Mr. Barker :

Q. What was it made you so curious ?

A. I do not know what it was. I wanted to see as to what the address meant, that is all. I knew then, and I was perfectly satisfied that they did not carry on an open business. They did not want to do that and it was not intended that they should.

Q. Well, finding that this was a mere pretense did you pursue your inquiry further at Amsterdam ?

A. No.

Q. You did not go to this ticket office ?

A. No, I did not go there. I did not know anything about that at that time.

Q. Did you make any further inquiry at that time ?

A. No.

Q. Or at any time ?

A. No.

Q. Did you discuss it with anybody afterwards ?

A. The office ?

Q. The subject ?

A. I do not think so. I do not remember that I did. I may have discussed it, but I cannot say now.

Q. Neither in London nor anywhere else with Mr. Preston ?

A. No.

Q. With the minister or anybody else that you knew ?

A. I do not remember. It may be well for me to explain the position so that the committee will understand it. The North Atlantic Trading Company was simply a name. It is simply a name, and as I heard this morning they have an English organization now. I always assumed they had a Holland incorporation because I think in the agreements we entered into it was set forth that the company itself was incorporated in Holland.

Q. Did you mean to say that any of the papers said that ?

A. I think so. I think the orders in council do, the orders in council approving of the arrangement. But I knew that the company name was simply an organization with which the government of Canada were dealing ; that it did not itself represent anything particularly excepting that it was formed of men and the institution belonged to these people that we have spoken of, these large offices. It was simply the name, it was the medium through which the government dealt with these people.

Q. I see his letter is dated May, 1902, and nearly three years afterwards it has been in operation ?

A. Yes.