

Q. (Reads). "Midland, December 4, 1911.

C. Doutre,

Contract Agent M. & F., Ottawa, Ont.

Ice getting thick at Victoria Harbour and here and boats due will not be able to get in. Will do the work for same amount as last year. Kindly advise quickly.

JAS. PLAYFAIR,

Midland Towing & Wrecking Co."

That is addressed to you?—A. Yes.

Q. Then on December 1, 1911, I find this letter dated at Midland:—

"C. Doutre, Esq.,

Purchasing & Contract Agent,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of the 28th ult. duly received, enclosing our cheque for \$3,800 *re* tender for ice-breaking Thunder Bay. Accept thanks for same.

What about ice-breaking here, and Victoria Harbour?

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) JAS. PLAYFAIR."

Was that the first enquiry from this company for work last fall?—A. I am not sure, but I should imagine that would be about the first.

Q. And their solicitor paid a personal visit and interviewed you.—A. This year?

Q. Yes.—A. I do not think so, I do not think I saw Mr. Grant this year.

Q. We will come down to last fall when you went to Midland, as stated by you to Mr. Pringle, who did you see first about this matter?—A. I called on Mr. White the Harbour Master who was ill, and I saw his son, who promised to see his father and get some information I wanted to obtain from him. I wanted to find out what boats if any were due to arrive at Midland, and after that I went and met—I think I met Mr. Grant on the street with Mr. Pratt—

Q. Tell me, who is Mr. Pratt, is he one of this party?—A. I do not know—

Q. Is he connected with this company?—A. I think he is identified with Mr. Playfair in his business.

Q. Did you understand that he has a tug?—A. Oh yes, he has a tug there called after himself.

Q. We will talk first of Mr. Grant and Mr. Pratt, what passed between you and them?—A. They were very anxious that we should renew the contract for that year.

Q. With whom?—A. With the Midland Towing and Wrecking Company. I do not know that the name was mentioned, but there is no doubt that it was implied. After that Mr. Pratt took me down and showed me his tug, and we went on board; in the meantime we met Mr. Watt.

Q. Mr. D. L. Watt, a clean shaven elderly man?—A. Yes, an elderly man.

Q. Who is he?—A. I understand he is a partner of Mr. Playfair. Then we went on board and went out on the harbour and broke ice for about an hour and a half. I came back and went up to see Mr. White and he had no information to give me as to how many boats were coming in.

Q. Did Mr. Grant or Mr. Watt tell you what boats were to come in?—A. Either Mr. Grant or Mr. Watt or Mr. Pratt told me there were three.

Q. Who told you that?—A. One of them, I do not know which it was.

Q. As a matter of fact no boat came into the port after that date, so that was a work of fiction?—A. Mr. Playfair told me the following morning that there were no boats to arrive.

Q. But these parties were pressing you to make a contract?—A. Yes, they were.