

made any transfer of their contract to the Russian Government. Now, assuming that to be correct—?—A. Well, I could not concur in assuming it to be correct, for this reason—

Q. That they had not made a transfer?—A. It depends entirely on what the arrangement was, and I, like the Deputy Minister, have no knowledge of what that arrangement was.

Q. You have none whatever?—A. None whatever.

Q. But you said a few moments ago, in answer to a question I put to you, that you did know that the money will come to the Canadian Vickers?—A. Naturally, because we built the ship. If it does not, of course, Vickers are a little more powerful than we are. But if the money does not come to use there will be somebody who will make a noise. Oh, the money will come; we have done the work, and Vickers will send us the pay.

Q. Well, Mr. Miller, when you do receive that money will you then seek to get a release from the Canadian contract?—A. I cannot answer that question at all, because I do not know whether a release from the Canadian contract is necessary, but I presume it is not, because I do not know how Vickers would enter into another contract knowing that the Canadian contract was standing.

Q. Well, having been told a few days ago by the official deputy head of the department that the Canadian Government had not released Vickers from their contract with the Canadian Government, the committee naturally supposes that Vickers, Limited, are subject to that contract?—A. Well, supposition does not make it so, does it?

Q. Not necessarily, I will admit?—A. I think that this undoubtedly is a question of law, and I am not a lawyer. Even if you got my opinion on that matter it would not be worth anything. Who would pay any attention to the opinion of a shipbuilder on a strictly legal point?

Mr. BOYS: It is a lawyer who is asking you for it.

The WITNESS: Do you not see? If you were I and I were you, would it not be absolute folly on my part to express an opinion on a purely legal point. As manager of a ship-yard I get a contract handed to me: "Build that ship and be quick about it." I proceed to do so. It is not up to me to say why. If they tell me to burn that workshop down, and I am satisfied that it is the wish of the directors that it shall be done, I burn it down.

*By Mr. Devlin:*

Q. I have known many a farmer who could give a better opinion on a municipal question than many lawyers?—A. I am not a farmer, I am a shipbuilder.

Q. You have absolutely nothing before you to establish that you have been released by the Canadian Government?—A. We have nothing at all from the Canadian Government in connection with the whole business.

Q. Except the original contract?—A. The original contract from the Canadian Government to us, we have that.

Mr. BOYS: As a lawyer, Mr. Devlin will appreciate that.

Mr. DEVLIN: I think so myself.

*By Mr. Devlin:*

Q. And you will then, according to Mr. Boys' opinion, be obliged to return to the Canadian Government the sum of half a million dollars to be dealt with by the Canadian Government as they see fit?—A. I do not acquiesce to that for one minute.

Mr. DEVLIN: Well, Mr. Boys, the witness will not agree with your opinion.

Mr. BOYS: He is not a lawyer.