

Q. Did Mr. Johnston inform you that the plans of this ice-breaker were changed after the Russian Government took it over?—A. Slight changes.

Q. You may call it "slight changes," but changes were made in the plans of the ice-breaker in order to make it suitable for the Russian Government.—A. There was a memorandum there of certain changes that were required to be made.

Q. And there was a change in the specifications as originally made by the Canadian Government?—A. There was a slight change.

Q. Have you any idea what the cost of the changes would amount to?—A. No, I could not estimate closely; there was a diving apparatus, a salvage pump, and it seems to me some kind of a winch.

By Mr. Carvell:

Q. A towing winch and a steam-launch.—A. A towing winch and a steam-launch.

Hon. Mr. REID: My information is that the vessel was changed considerably.

Mr. CARVELL: No, absolutely there was not any change, but there were a few additions that will amount to probably \$10,000.

Hon. Mr. REID: That evidence is not in the official record.

Mr. CARVELL: No.

By Mr. Morphy:

Q. When a man comes to your office and gives you information upon which he puts the seal of confidence, do you never ask to be relieved of that pledge of confidence?—A. I let him tell his story.

Q. And if it is an important matter, as Auditor General, do you not take the precaution of saying "This is of interest to the country, and I wish you would give me permission to use it." Have you never done that?—A. I may have done that sometimes.

Q. But you did not do that in this case?—A. No.

Q. Why?—A. I do not know; I did not think of it.

Q. You thought it was very important?—A. Yes.

Q. Would not that have given you more latitude in going on with any investigation you wanted to make, if you had obtained permission to use the name of your informant?—A. I do not think it would have been of any use to the committee.

Q. I did not say that it would have been use to the committee, but might not the mention of the name of your informant be of some value?—A. I did not want to bring him into the matter; I would not ask him.

Q. Was he a reputable man?—A. Yes.

Q. How long had you known him?—A. Not very long; a week or two, perhaps.

Q. How many times had you seen him before you got this information from him?—A. Possibly twice.

Q. Has he been in Canada since?—A. No.

Q. What is his occupation, please?—A. He is an office man.

Q. Was he a Government employee?

Mr. DEVLIN: Perhaps you might say where the conversation took place.

By Mr. Morphy:

Q. Was he a Government employee?—A. A Dominion Government employee?

Q. A Government employee of any kind.—A. Should I answer all these questions?

Q. Why not?

Mr. DEVLIN: Have you any objection to saying where the conversation took place?