

By Mr. Boys:

Q. For my own information, I would like to know who it is that compiles this report. Do you do it entirely yourself or give instructions?—A. It is compiled by the staff.

Q. Am I to understand that you gave instructions to have your letter appear on p. 0-142 of the report?—A. Yes.

Q. And at that time you had the explanation that you have now given this Committee?—A. I had this letter of Mr. Johnston's.

Q. And you were also satisfied and had concurred?—A. Yes.

Q. Why did you have this letter printed at all if you were satisfied?—A. Oh, at the time of the printing of this?

Q. At the time you gave instructions for the printing of this report?—A. I was not satisfied at that time; I was satisfied at the time the transaction went through the office. I was not satisfied at the time this was printed in the report.

Q. Subsequent to your concurrence, you learned of something that disturbed your mind?—A. Yes.

Q. That was what?—A. That it had been sold at a profit, or that a profit had been made out of the transaction.

Q. How did you learn that, and from whom, that the ice-breaker had been sold at a profit?—A. That was confidential information that a party gave me.

Q. Is it confidential still?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Stevens:

Q. Will you give it to the Prime Minister—

Mr. Boys: He said it was confidential still.

By Mr. Boys:

Q. Why did you put this letter in—for the purpose of opening up something that was confidential?—A. That is my method of reporting to Parliament.

Q. I appreciate that. We know that quite well. It is a fact that you deliberately put this one single letter in but nothing else, your purpose being that, although you had received certain explanations and information which was confidential, you wanted the matter opened up?—A. Certainly. That was why I published it, so that Parliament could deal with it in any way they saw fit.

Q. How was it you were satisfied? What was it that satisfied you? From the very first you were not satisfied? What did satisfy you?—A. I do not understand that question exactly.

Q. When you wrote your letter on August 25, 1916, you were not satisfied?—A. I was not satisfied; I wanted to get a reply from the Marine Department that would justify me in passing the entry.

Q. When you wrote that letter of August 25, the points taken by you were, that the Vickers Co., if the contract were cancelled, might make a profit of \$300,000 or \$400,000, and that if the Russian Government were to get the benefit you wanted the contract assigned to them?—A. Yes.

Q. And that was the position you took before you concurred?—A. Yes.

Q. When were you ever satisfied upon these two points before you concurred?—A. When I received the letter from the Marine Department.

Q. And that did satisfy you on those two points?—A. Yes.

Q. Are there any other points you have since learned that you are not satisfied on?—A. That a profit was made out of the transaction.