

669. Was that in the report?—No. I did not say that in the report. It is merely taking over the boat from Watts? Watts had the certificate in another shape and I shaped it in that way.

670. Watt drafted this?—Watts drafted one certificate, but it was considerably different from that.

671. This is yours?—Yes.

672. Every word of it?—Every word of it.

673. You stand to it to-day?—As far as the boat herself is concerned, I do stand to it to-day.

674. Do you stand to it now?—As far as the boat herself is concerned, I do.

675. Is that statement true or false?—It was true enough, so far as I saw her on the river at that time.

676. It was utterly true and yet utterly false at the time you wrote it?—I thought she was a good boat then. I still think she was all right enough, as far as the boat was concerned; but, as I have told you several times, the rigging is bad.

*By Mr. Somerville:*

677. You had only tried it on the river then?—Yes.

*By Lieutenant Governor Schultz:*

678. You say that Matthew Watts made out a report which you requested him to alter?—Yes.

679. What was the nature of his report?—I forget now.

680. In any case, this is your report, and what you have written in here is true?—It is true as far as the hull of the boat is concerned.

681. Is it true or false?—It is false as regards the rigging.

682. Did you write that statement knowing it to be a falsehood?—It is true as regards the boat.

683. Did you write that statement knowing it to be a falsehood?—I did not. It is true as regards the boat.

*By Mr. Taylor:*

684. Was the boat equipped and ready for use when you wrote that statement?—Yes.

685. Then, does that apply to the boat as she was that day?—Yes; on a trial on the river. Certainly, that day I had confidence in the boat. I believed what I had written that day.

*By Mr. Moncrieff:*

686. Did you notice the defect in the rigging at that time?—Yes; I told His Honour about that before.

687. Did His Honour tell you to report that the rigging was right, although it was wrong?—He wished the thing to be reported good.

688. Did he wish you to report a falsehood?—No, no.

689. Why do you wish to lead us to that inference?—He wished me to report favourably.

690. He wished you to report on the vessel?—Yes.

691. And you told him that she was not rigged properly?—Yes.

692. And then did he tell you to report that she was all right?—I said nothing about the rigging. She worked very well that day on the river.

693. Did you leave it out purposely?—No; I did not.

*By Lieutenant Governor Schultz:*

694. Did you make any other statement about this boat?—I think there is something said about it in this report.

695. Did you make any report when you came back?—Yes.

696. Would you know it if you saw it?—That report you showed me just now, that is it.