

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

seven (27) cents is the price, and am to instruct you to take prompt delivery.'—A. That is it.

Q. What was the reason for telegraphing the day after you had written Mr. Pottinger?—A. Because there was a telegram to state that he would take twenty-seven cents if he got prompt delivery.

Q. From whom was the telegram?—A. From Mr. Pearson.

Q. You have that telegram, have you?—A. Yes, it is in the return.

Q. The telegram is: 'Will accept twenty-seven for sleepers if prompt delivery taken. (Sgd.) B. F. Pearson.' Now, there must have been a communication to Mr. Pearson that brought this reply?—A. There may have been, but I did not send it.

Q. Are you unable to say whether there is in the Railway Department any such communication?—A. Not in the Railway Department, there is not. Everything is here in this file that is in the record.

Q. As secretary of the Railway Department you ought to be in a position to state whether there was any communication sent?—A. Yes, certainly, we have the records, and the chief clerk says there is not.

Q. That there is not?—A. No.

Q. Well, apparently from that, there was such a telegram or communication to Mr. Pearson?—A. No doubt there must have been.

Q. Do you wish us to understand that the telegram has been lost or mislaid?—A. No, this record has the reply. You mean the telegram to which this was a reply?

Q. Yes, the telegram that brought that reply?—A. I did not send it. It is not in the records of the department.

Q. It is not in the records of the Railway Department?—A. Not in the records of the department—the telegram outwards.

Q. Do you know who would send the telegram?—A. No. It might have been sent by the minister. I should judge it was as this reply is to the minister.

Q. It may have been sent by the minister?—A. This reply is to the minister—I could not say so myself.

Q. In regard to telegrams to the minister on public business or communications, are they filed in the Railway Department?—A. Yes, sometimes they are; as a rule they are.

Q. Sometimes they are?—A. Yes.

Q. Are they always?—A. Well, I could not say that they always are.

Q. As a rule they are?—A. Yes.

Q. This one is not filed?—A. I do not find it there.

Q. Then on the same day you receive an acknowledgment from Mr. Pottinger of the receipt of the telegram?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ask or speak to the minister, since being requested to attend with the correspondence before this committee?—A. No, I have not spoken to the minister.

Q. Well, I wish you would speak to the minister and see if it is possible to get this correspondence he seems to have had with Mr. Pearson in reference to this purchase. I would like to have that correspondence to make the record complete. Now, there is some further correspondence here between Mr. Pottinger and Mr. Taylor, the general storekeeper?—A. I do not know anything about that.

Q. You do not know anything about that?—A. Nothing whatever, except what I see here.

Q. And between Mr. Taylor, the general storekeeper, and Mr. Pearson: Mr. Taylor giving Mr. Pearson the order, as directed from the department at Ottawa, at twenty-seven cents?—A. I do not know anything about that.

Q. You do not know anything about that?—A. Nothing, except what I see here.

Q. Then the order from Mr. Taylor to Mr. Burpee, the engineer of maintenance; you know nothing about that?—A. No.

Q. Can you tell me whether the letters on this file came from the Railway Department?—A. No, they did not; we did not send these letters.