

6 EDWARD VII., A. 1906

Q. Also at Charing Cross in London, England. Well now, have you anything else there to justify the passing of these accounts than Mr. Leopold's statements of shipments of emigrants into this country and with W. T. R. Preston's stamp on it, that it is correct?

A. Apparently not on this file.

Q. That is all you have? Do you think, Mr. Fraser, that the mere certificate of an officer in London connected with emigration into this country and the account of the man who receives the money is sufficient to warrant your passing the accounts?

A. Well, I am speaking now of accounts that were handled before I had anything to do with them; last year's accounts.

Q. I am asking you as auditor, not as auditor of any particular period, do you consider that sufficient warrant to the Audit Office to pass those accounts and pay large sums of money for emigrants leaving England and coming to this country—simply a certificate of Mr. W. T. R. Preston, an officer in London, and the account of the man who wants the money? Do you as auditor think that is sufficient to justify public money being paid out?

A. Hardly.

Q. What more would you ask as auditor?

A. Well, before answering that I would have to make some inquiries into the manner of handling those accounts.

Q. What inquiries would you make?

A. To see that some steps, some reasonable steps, were taken to prove that these emigrants had really been sent out or had arrived in the country.

Q. You are an old officer in the government service, although you may be new to your present office; are you not aware that a year or more ago Mr. Preston repudiated any connection with Mr. Leopold?

A. No, I am not aware.

Q. You never heard that?

A. I may have heard it, but I have no recollection now.

Q. You have no official recollection?

A. No recollection whatever.

Q. I think most of us did know that Mr. Preston stated that he had no connection with this Mr. Leopold whatever. For that reason I am beginning with this matter?

A. I have no recollection whatever of it.

Q. Did you ever in your own department question the sufficiency of the information you received on this subject?

A. In this case?

Q. Did you ever say you wanted to have more information than you were getting before you passed these accounts?

A. I have not had any emigrant's accounts brought to my attention since I went into the office.

Q. When did you go there?

A. First of August.

Q. Then you had not been concerned with these accounts previously? Have you had any discussion with your officers on that subject?

A. No, not in connection with these. I may say that I have been going over the various branches of the office whenever I have had time, and ascertaining the methods of examination as far as I can. I have not come in contact with any of these accounts.

Q. I call your attention to L-26, in which there are a number of these accounts amounting to a very large sum of money. The North Atlantic Trading Company, for instance, to which I will refer presently; will you look at that item? You will see about the middle of the page the item of \$111,330.99. Now that you will observe

Mr. J. FRASER.