

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Q. When you used such terms as that you had lost confidence in all the staff that is practically what it amounted to?—A. Well, in—

Q. Then you modified it by a postscript, or rather a letter the following day, that this did not apply to the whole staff. Looking at the matter now in a fair-minded way—I know it is not possible for me to put words in your mouth, or to lead you in the slightest degree—but looking at it now calmly and dispassionately, would it not have been fairer for you in view of all that has taken place—these differences of opinion and your attention being drawn especially to the Hodgins inquiry—would it not have been fairer to these engineers to have met them and threshed the thing out and had the thing settled, than to have used such terms as placed them all under such a charge as parliament found it immediately necessary to investigate?—A. Well, I didn't—I am sorry now that I put it in the words I did that I had lost confidence. I put just the words that came to me at the time. I am sorry I put in the words 'having lost confidence.' I felt that they—I could not agree with the classification as I found it.

*By Mr. Macdonald:*

Q. You now regard the expression you used as somewhat unfortunate?—A. Yes. 'Having lost confidence in them' is probably somewhat unfortunate for it reflects on them, but I did not intend to do it.

Also on page 332:—

Q. These men are the men who have suffered in their professional reputations?—A. Well, as I have said, in the outset, I withdraw that portion of it, so far as referring to their honesty and integrity in the matter is concerned.

Also on page 415, questioned as to whether he had not other reasons for resigning, Mr. Lumsden's evidence was:—

Q. Did you have any other reasons in your mind?—A. I can't say now whether I had or not.

Q. You can't say as to that, and the reasons which you did finally give were those reasons in regard to lack of confidence in your engineers, and you regret that expression as being an unfortunate one?—A. Yes, I do, and if I had to write it again I would probably put it in other terms.'

Also on page 474:—

Q. Now, Mr. Lumsden, supposing that instead of adopting the course which you have seen fit to adopt, of resigning and making these suggestions against the engineers, you had adopted the course of remaining with the commission and endeavouring to reconstitute your staff to your satisfaction, would you, on that investigation and on that material have felt justified in dismissing Mr. Richan from the service of the commission?—A. I didn't consider it in that way at all; I didn't—as I seemed to be disagreeing with all of them, I came to the conclusion I would resign.

Q. Though you might be wrong and they might be right?—A. Exactly; I chose to resign; at any rate, that is what I did.

Q. Of course, you involved these gentlemen; I don't want to dwell on it any longer than is necessary, or to put any more stress on it than is necessary, but you saw fit to involve these gentlemen and it is necessary they should be cleared in regard to the matter; it is fair to say you would not have undertaken on such investigation as you had made to dismiss Mr. Richan from the service of the commissioners or to request his dismissal, would you?—A. I don't suppose I would.

Q. And in the suggestion that you made in putting in your letter of resignation in the terms in which you put it, you did not intend to suggest that he was incompetent or unfit to continue the work he was doing then?—A. I merely said, at least I don't know what I originally said, but my explanation at the