

Q. Now, we have had it that this matter was very well considered in your Department, the making of this contract for \$5,000?—A. No doubt, I was abroad while that contract was made, but I have no doubt it received due consideration,

Q. At any rate we have already had the recommendations of the different officers?—A. Yes.

Q. Now I find in 1911 Mr. Fraser put in a memorandum in this language, "I do not see how the Department can avoid continuing the policy of ice-breaking at Midland."

By Mr. Bennett (Simcoe).

Q. What is the date?

Mr. PRINGLE.—October 21, 1911.

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. (Continues reading). "I do not know what the *Simcoe* is able to do in this line but certainly if she can do the work and isn't required elsewhere she should be employed." Now there is just one thing, I think it has already been made fairly clear that the item of \$500 in 1905 was never paid?—A. No, I do not think so.

Q. I find there was an item of \$400 paid in 1904, but the account of 1905 was never paid?—A. No.

By Mr. Kyte:

Q. What is the latest date at which boats have arrived at Midland in the last four or five years?—A. I do not know the dates, there has been evidence produced before the committee, I think it is somewhere in the vicinity of the 13th or the 14th of December—I know more about ice-breaking today than I used to.

By Mr. Bennett (Simcoe).

Q. When you first heard from me about the *Simcoe* going there was it not a question of laying her up there for the season, having regard to the fact that any money that might be spent upon her for improvements and repairs and that sort of thing would be spent in Midland; was not that the point of view at first?—A. Yes, you asked me whether we could lay up the boat at Midland and I said yes.

Q. And that was away long before Christmas?—A. Oh yes.

Q. So that the point of the *Simcoe* going there to lay up was well settled?—A. Yes, it was settled that she would be laid up at Midland.

Q. So that when I wrote in December the letter that Mr. Pringle has read it was simply a question of getting her there as soon as possible?—A. A question of getting her there as quickly as possible.

Q. She was not brought there with any idea purely and simply of breaking ice?—A. Well no, but the intention was at the time—in fact we always had in view all last summer the idea of using the *Simcoe* for ice-breaking if at all possible, and we will use her next year for that purpose if we can.

Q. So that her presence there was simply with the view of laying her up, and if necessary she would do ice-breaking?—A. Yes.

Q. When did the company get busy writing for work there?—A. Do you mean last fall?

Q. Yes?—A. I do not know, the telegram is on the file.