

Q. But if your information turns out to be entirely untrue, do you not think that you have done a great injustice to the department by the publication of that letter, without their reply?—A. I do not think so.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. What was the date at which the vessel was to be completed?—A. I think it was some time in 1915; I am not certain.

Q. And when was it completed?—A. Not till the fall of 1916, I think, I saw in the papers that it had left some time before the close of navigation.

Mr. Boys: I would like to make a motion that Mr. Fraser attend the committee on Friday and produce the memorandum of the interview that he had with his informant, and which he tells us he has in his office, the memo. which he says he made.

The WITNESS: I did not say that I had made a memo.; I said I may have made it.

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. You not only said you may have made it, but you said that you thought you had made it.—A. I said, I thought it might be there if I had made one.

Mr. Boys: I would ask that you attend on Friday and produce it if you can find it, and if not that you report to the committee that you have been unable to do so.

*By Hon. Mr. Reid:*

Q. Mr. Fraser, with reference to this matter, did you discuss it with any of the officials of the department?—A. With Mr. Johnston.

Q. Did you go into the details of the whole matter?—A. Not very much; I asked him some questions and he showed me, I think, some cables from the Imperial Government, asking for the transfer, showing that there was to be a transfer.

Q. That is, they ask for a transfer of the vessel?—A. Yes.

Q. And did he show you the cables which proved that he was carrying out the wishes of the Imperial authorities?—A. Yes, it was a request from the Imperial authorities to transfer the vessel.

Q. Therefore he explained to you that the Marine and Fisheries Department was simply carrying out the request of the Imperial authorities?—A. According to the Order in Council, yes.

Q. That is not the question I asked you. Did Mr. Johnston discuss the matter with you and show you the cables to assure you that the Order in Council, as submitted by Mr. Hazen, was carrying out the request of the British Government?—A. The Order in Council was not passed until after I wrote this letter to Mr. Johnston. There was no Order in Council or anything else to show what they were doing.

Q. What I want to get at is whether you, as Auditor General, after getting the information that led you to make inquiries in connection with this matter, which, of course, it was right for you to make, went into the matter with Mr. Johnston, as deputy minister, thoroughly, and saw the evidence submitted to you by Mr. Johnston in the cables, or otherwise, and was not that sufficient to show you that the Department of Marine and Fisheries was simply carrying out the request, as far as this transaction was concerned, of the Imperial authorities?—A. No. When I saw Mr. Johnston he showed me a file there, and two or three cables in reference to the matter, asking for the transfer. I wanted to be assured that it was not going to be a release from the contract. The fact of their having taken the money back and released the contractor's security would, under ordinary circumstances, lead me to suppose they were going to release the company from the contract. I wrote that letter, setting that out pretty clearly, in order to get a letter from him, stating what they proposed doing.