

Mr. FOSTER.—Do you not want to know?

Mr. MACLEAN (Lunenburg).—Nobody is particularly anxious, I think. The only thing that concerns me is if this contract is a good contract, and if it has been fully executed by the parties.

*By Mr. Barker :*

Q. Is there any one you correspond with that can give us the information ?

The WITNESS.—Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know any person formerly connected with your department who now represents these people ?

A. Mr. Smart, I understand, is representing them.

Q. Do you not think he could give you that information ?

A. He might.

Q. You have not asked him ?

A. I have not asked him.

Q. Can you tell me when he first became connected with it ?

A. No, I cannot.

Q. I suppose it would be about the time you became Deputy Minister, would it not ?

A. No, I do not understand that Mr. Smart had any connection with them until some considerable time after he left the department.

Q. How did you know he had become connected with the company ?

A. I understand we were notified they had appointed him their agent.

Q. Do you not remember when that was ?

A. No, I think the letter is on file there.

Q. Did it not strike you, as Deputy Minister, singular that your predecessor in that office should become the representative of this firm ?

A. No, because he had gone into that business, the general booking business, and I suppose he was the agent for a number of companies doing the same class of business.

Q. It did not strike you as singular that your predecessor should become the agent of that company ?

A. No, it did not strike me as singular.

Q. Did you call the minister's attention to it ?

A. No.

Q. You never spoke to him about it ?

A. I have no recollection of speaking to him about it.

Q. Did the minister ever speak to you about it ?

A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Have you had any correspondence with Mr. Smart relating to this contract since he left ?

A. On one point only; he was not satisfied with the way we were getting our information, he thought we were not asking the proper questions, and wanted the right, as the representative of the company, to put an agent at the port to stand by and verify our examination. I did not accede to that and nothing was done.

Q. That was that he wanted you to have a better check on it ?

A. No, I did not understand that. He wanted to have a representative of the company present to verify our checking of their people. I did not think it was desirable and did not accede to his request and the matter ended there.

Q. He did not consider that necessary when he was Deputy Minister ?

A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Was there such an official of the company there at that time ?

A. Not that I heard of ; I never heard of it if there was.

Q. But when you came in he wanted it for the company ?

A. Yes; that is a matter I think of two months or a month and a half ago.

Q. Is that the only correspondence you have had with Mr. Smart since he was deputy ?

Mr. W. W. CORY.