

APPENDIX No. 6

House of Commons about prosecuting a man for conspiracy?—A. I do not know that it was officious.

By Mr. Lancaster :

Q. I recollect I insisted upon him telling me any reason he could give, and he gave me this—it was in reply to my question to which I insisted upon an answer?—A. In any case, I intended to be perfectly respectful to the committee.

By Mr. Knowles :

Q. Do you not think that to give such a suggestion and put it on the minutes of this committee, where everybody will read it, in regard to a legal matter, the most difficult to deal with that there is in legal practice, do you not think you were going a little beyond what your position as a witness required you to?—A. It is as Mr. Lancaster says, I only gave my opinion because he asked me for it and insisted upon my giving it.

Q. You are a prominent Liberal, are you not, Mr. Sprague?—A. I am afraid I have never been accused of that.

By Mr. Lancaster :

Q. You are not guilty of that?—A. I am not guilty of that, whatever else I may be guilty of.

By Mr. Knowles :

Q. You said you thought that would be one justification for the existence of this committee, what do you mean by that? You might give your statement, just to show that I did not misrepresent you. I think I recall your words correctly?—A. I don't know whether I used the word 'justification,' probably I did. I could not probably define exactly what I did mean. That is just the mode of expression I adopted.

Q. Do you think if you were in a court addressing a judge who was quite respectful to you, you would say to him, 'That is one justification for your existence or appointment'?—A. No, I don't think I would, and if I have offended in that respect I am very sorry.

Q. I don't say that you have offended?—A. As I say, I do not want to do anything or say anything that is not respectful.

Mr. KNOWLES.—I want to know what you mean; I am giving you a chance to explain.

Mr. CROCKET.—I don't think Mr. Sprague intended any disrespect.

WITNESS—I certainly did not.

Mr. CROCKET.—He said that at Pense there had been a combine, too.

WITNESS.—That was the view I had of it, that if the retail dealers got from 45 to 80 per cent profit on their lumber they would be getting too much.

By the Chairman :

Q. But the trouble at Pense is one effect of the formation of your association, constituted as it is?—A. I don't think so, because they could have got that profit without the association at all. If there are two dealers there and they had lumber and had customers they could get that profit from them; they could do it whether there was an association in existence or not. They could do it also in other places. I believe that in other instances too high prices have been charged to the consumer for lumber; I don't think Pense is the only one.

By Mr. Crocket :

Q. These dealers at Pense were members of the association?—A. They were members, yes.