

Q. Of your department?

A. To the Department of the Interior.

Q. You don't know whether the money is sent to Mr. Smart or not?

A. No.

Q. Do you receive accounts through Mr. Smart?

A. No; we prepare the accounts ourselves from the manifests.

Q. You pay on everything; every man that comes from the countries affected by the contract?

A. Of the classes coming under the contract.

Q. Does Mr. Smart have any interest in that part of it so far as you know?

A. I have not seen anything of it.

Q. You don't know whether he looks after the trading company and the people who receive the information from them?

A. No.

Q. You have no evidence of that?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any discussion with Mr. Smart since he has been connected with this trading association?

A. I think the only discussion was in reference to the payment of bonuses. I think he claims the company should have been paid on more than we allowed them.

Q. Do you know what his position is in connection with this syndicate?

A. Nothing further than what is in the letter in the file, I think.

Q. You have never asked?

A. I have never asked anything outside the letter.

Q. It didn't strike you as remarkable that a gentleman who had just retired from the deputy ministership should turn up immediately as connected with the company?

A. I did not make any inquiries.

Q. It did not surprise you—or were you surprised? Tell us, did you think it was an improper thing?

A. I was not a bit surprised.

Q. Why?

A. Because he was a very clever, capable man.

Q. Do you use that word 'clever' in the ordinary sense, or the American sense?

A. I think he is a good business man.

Q. You were not surprised that he turned up almost immediately in connection with a company having a big contract with the government?

A. No.

Q. Have you any reason whatever to believe that Mr. Smart's connection with the company in some shape had existed before his retirement?

A. No evidence at all of any kind.

Q. You have not made any inquiry on that head?

A. No.

Q. Don't you think, having regard to the fact that you are in charge of that department, it would have been your duty to make some inquiry?

A. In reference to what?

Q. Whether he previous to the time that that letter was received had had any interest in it?

A. I did not make inquiry.

Q. You did not think it was your duty?

A. I had no idea of that, and have not yet.

Q. You have no knowledge, that is what you mean?

A. No.

Q. I do not suppose I have either. Now, do you know anybody else that is con-