

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. The telegram reads "James Playfair, Midland Towing and Wrecking Company, Midland, Ont. Will be in Midland tomorrow." Now, as a matter of fact didn't you make an arrangement with Mr. Playfair that if the ice formed he would keep that harbour open without specifying any terms?—A. No, I did not.

Q. You did not make that arrangement?—A. I did not.

Q. What arrangement did you make with regard to keeping the harbour open?—A. I made none, because when I arrived at Midland I found that all the boats had arrived, and that the necessity for keeping the harbour open had passed.

Q. No necessity after that date?—A. Not after that date.

Q. When did they arrive?—A. That I really could not tell you; I did not enquire.

Q. Mr. Bennett's letter seems to have been dated on the 5th, wasn't it?

Mr. BENNETT.—The 4th.

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. Yes, December 4th, so they must have all arrived within four days?—A. Evidently.

Q. Now you were unable to get the *Simcoe* there?—A. Yes.

Q. If the weather had become severe, and ice had formed, you would not have been able to keep the harbour open with the Government steamer *Simcoe*?—A. You might please repeat that question.

Q. I say if the ice had formed prior to December 7th you would not have been able to keep the harbour open with the steamer *Simcoe*?—A. No.

Q. And you would have had to rely upon the local boats?—A. Absolutely.

Q. No doubt you would have had to arrange with the Midland Towing and Wrecking Company?

Mr. BENNETT.—Or someone else who had as good tugs.

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. Or someone else. I see a memorandum from yourself to the Chief Engineer dated November 7, 1911. (Reads):—

"With reference to Mr. Auldjo's letter of November 1st in connection with ice-breaking in Midland this fall, you will note that Captain Richmond states
i "the *Simcoe* can easily break the ice which usually forms in the late fall, but
"that the vessel would not be available for such work during the Lake Superior
"trip which I note is from the 1st to the 15th of December, I do not presume
"there would be much ice to break during this period. In any event should
"there be ice in the harbour while the *Simcoe* is away on the Lake Superior trip
"I presume it would be possible to have one of your resident engineers proceed
"to Midland to supervise any breaking of ice which might be required."—A.
That was written in October, I think.

Q. On November 7, 1911. Then Col. Anderson puts on this: "When the work is wanted it is wanted very suddenly."?—A. That is true.

Q. There might be some delay in getting a man to Midland. "Otherwise the arrangement might work O.K., W.P.A." "After consulting Mr. Fraser and Mr. "Doutre I recommend that instructions be given agent P.S."—A. That is Parry Sound.

Q. "To detail *Simcoe* for this work, any additional tug work required to be arranged for locally by my officers." Then you did endeavor to detail the *Simcoe* for this work, but were not successful in doing that, and you would have to rely on local tugs to break the ice?—A. Undoubtedly.