

but anything I have got you cannot get." What was the result? He sent to Toronto to the Chief Justice to get his opinion; and what was the reply? I did not see the letter, but I take the commissioner's word for it. He said: "Take all the evidence you can get." Did he take the advice of the Chief Justice? Not at all, as I shall show before I get through. On the subject of free gas to Mr. Ellis, Mr. Francis Timmins, secretary and a director of the gas company at St. Catharines, was examined. His evidence will be found at page 94. Mr. Timmins said: "We gave Mr. Ellis free gas by a resolution of the board, and the reason stated for giving Mr. Ellis free gas is that we have always been treated gentlemanly by Mr. Ellis, and on account of his courtesy and civility." I have shown you how courteous he was to Mr. McDonagh, Mr. Current, Capt. Saurien and Capt. Ross. But then they had no free gas to give. Mr. Timmins further said that Mr. Ellis had control of the gas on the canal—that is, he had the control of the consumption of the gas on the canal. He can order the lock-tenders to turn down the gas and, as a matter of fact, that is the practice that has been followed on the canal for some time. But the commissioner says there is nothing in the gas question so far as the canal is concerned. I will endeavor to show that there is. According to the evidence of Mr. Chatfield, the gentleman of leisure that I have been speaking about, Mr. Ellis burns gas for fuel in his house. He ought to know, because he is a gas-fitter, and put in the gas fixtures and gas stoves in Mr. Ellis' house. I believe the Government can demonstrate, if they choose, though no evidence was taken on the subject, that Mr. Demare burns gas in his house which is charged to the Government. I intended to give the commissioner an ocular demonstration of the fact, but owing to the disagreement between us towards the end of the investigation I was unable to do so. The gas that Mr. Demare consumes passes through a meter and is charged to the Government; and then, as I understand, Mr. Demare has got a meter that was used in the old canal office as a blind. Mr. Timmins said, that they collected bills every month; but if they collected bills every month, is it likely that they would let this man's bill stand for three years? If he was burning five gas jets for three years, is it likely that

the meter would record it? I think they gave themselves away on that question. I am satisfied if the Government will send a man there to investigate the matter they will find that what I say is true, especially if the frost is deep enough in the ground to prevent them changing the pipe; and now I shall endeavor to show you what the saving is to the gas company by having the gas turned down, as it has been for years on the Welland Canal. The evidence goes to show that except while a vessel is passing through the gas is turned down three-quarters. In fact, it is turned out altogether on moonlight nights. Now, I have made a calculation of the saving effected by the company in return for giving Mr. Ellis free gas and free fuel, and a subscription of \$100 to a testimonial. It is as follows:—

Memo. of vessels going through the Welland Canal¹
per published returns:—

1887—Down, at Port Colborne.....	892
Say the same number up.....	892
	<u>1,784</u>
1888—Down, at Port Colborne.....	914
Say the same number up.....	914
	<u>1,828</u>

Or say, in round numbers, about 1,800 up and down per year—about seven months and twenty-five days, less thirty-four Sundays, at twenty hours each, which leaves 205 days or, say, 5,056 hours, leaving each vessel an average time of two hours and forty-eight minutes to lock. The evidence shows that it takes on an average twenty-five minutes to lock a vessel. But allowing them twenty-three minutes more, that will make it forty-eight minutes that the gas is burnt at full flare. Now if the gas is turned three-quarters down for the other two hours, as the evidence shows, Mr. Ellis saves for the gas company one-half of the gas by his orders, while the business of the country suffers. (See Donald McPhee's evidence on pages 777 to 779). So the gas company made a good investment for the stockholders when they gave Mr. Ellis free gas and allowed him to use it for fuel, and also gave him \$100 in cash besides. He (Ellis) gives the gas company more than he takes by turning down the gas. While we are paying for gas that we do not get, the business of the country suffers, and people get drowned in the Wel-