

*By Mr. Morphy:*

Q. Would you mark that memo confidential?—A. Yes, it would be confidential.

Q. Would you mark it yourself as confidential?—A. No.

Q. You would not?—A. No.

Q. Then supposing you died it would be open to the public; you had not protected the confidence of this man who gave it to you.—A. I can hardly answer that question.

*By Mr. Davidson:*

Q. Since you have inserted your letter in the Auditor General's Report, do you not think it would be only fair if you had stated in that report, that you had received a reply from the department that apparently gave a satisfactory answer?—A. It would not have been any harm to have done so, but he had marked his reply as confidential and I thought that he had some purpose in doing that.

Q. And since it was marked confidential, and you thought you were not at liberty to use it, do you not think you should have stated at least that you had received a reply from the department, and instead of letting it go out to the country that apparently you had not received any reply at all? You could have stated, without any breach of confidence that you had received a reply that was satisfactory at the time?—A. I suppose I could have done so.

Q. Would it not have been fair?—A. You cannot think of all these things at the time; it is quite easy now, looking back, to see what might have been done.

Q. You knew what the effect of publishing that letter would be on the public mind; the inference would be that you had written a letter and had received no reply?—A. It did not strike me that way.

Q. Does it not strike you now. Would not a person who simply reads your report, and the letter which you wrote, and which you published therein, finding nothing further than your letter, no reply to it having been received, apparently, be bound to draw the inference that there was nothing further to add?—A. I had not seen any criticism in the papers, or anything in connection with it at that time; I am not responsible for any inference that may be drawn, I did not intend it.

Q. What do you, as a reasonable man, think would be the result of publishing that correspondence in the manner in which it was published. Do you not think that the conclusion arrived at by any ordinary person would be that there was nothing further to report?—A. I do not know.

Q. That there was nothing but just the one letter?—A. I did not give it any thought at the time. The only thought I gave it was that seeing Mr. Johnston's letter was marked confidential, it would be better not to put it in the report.

Q. What was the object of inserting your letter in the report?—A. To call the attention of Parliament to it, for your information, and for the information of every other member of Parliament.

Q. That you wanted Parliament to deal with it, and by putting in your letter you wanted Parliament to believe that no explanation had been given, did you not?—A. No, I supposed that if Parliament took any stock in it at all, they would inquire into it.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Supposing that, acting upon this private information, you wrote that letter to the Department, officially, and then you published that letter and supposing your information afterwards turned out to be entirely untrue, and that the departmental letter in reply was absolutely correct, would you not think that some injustice had been done to the department by publishing your letter, and not the reply?—A. I would have to take the consequences.