Q. The vessel would be about completed then?—A. No; rapidly approaching completion.

Q. I remember seeing her in North Sydney harbour some time last fall?—A. That would be some time in November or December. As a matter of fact, I think it would be in December. The draft of the cablegram is as follows.

By the Chairman:

Q. What date?—A. October 25, 1916. (The cablegram was then read by the witness.) That was our answer. We sent a telegram on the 6th—at least, we sent the draft. Here I might observe that the dates upon which the telegrams were sent may not be exactly correct. The dates I have here are the dates upon which the drafts are sent.

By Mr. Carvell:

Q. You mean, sent to the Under Secretary of State for Canada for transmission? —A. Yes. Of course, the dates on which the telegrams were actually forwarded were not necessarily the same.

Hon. Mr. REID: There may be a difference of a day or two.

Mr. CARVELL: We met that situation in many cases last year in the Fuse Inquiry before the Royal Commission.

The WITNESS: That is inevitable.

By Mr. Morphy:

Q. Is this Committee to assume, when you speak of a draft having been sent, that that very message was sent?—A. Quite.

Mr. Carvell:

Q. In other words, you do not send it direct to the Colonial Office, but you send it to the Under Secretary of State?—A. Yes, who, through the Governor General, transmits to the Colonial Office.

Hon. Mr. REID: There is a difference of a day or two often.

Mr. CARVELL: We found that in the Fuse Inquiry, in many cases, the cablegrams did not bear the date they were drafted. That is the explanation and there is no doubt it is true.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the next communication after October 25?—A. The next communication was on the 6th November.

Q. Where is the telegram of November 3? We have not got that yet?—A. What is the last telegram I read?

Q. October 25. You read the answer of October 25 stating that the contract was $998,000?—A. Here is the reply of November 3. (Read by witness.) The first paragraph of this cable is in accordance with the information submitted to the committee at its last meeting by the Auditor General. He has the same information. May I also say in connection with this telegram that I learned definitely after its receipt that Canadian Vickers had never been communicatd with one way or another in connection with the transfer of this contract. Whether that is material or not, is for the committee to determine.

By Mr. Morphy:

Q. By anyone?—A. By anyone.