

Q. You took it at that rate?—A. Yes, from along around the end of November to the 14th of December, 16 days.

Q. To the 14th of December?—A. Yes, or I might have to go over that.

Q. Your contract only went to the 12th?—A. I think our contract said till the last boat came in.

By the Chairman:

Q. Was it the same tug you used this year?—A. No, sir. One year some boats came to Midland and could not get in.

By Mr. Fowler:

Q. Now Mr. Playfair, supposing this tug *Minnetaga* had her crew aboard and her steam up what charge would you make for a special trip to the Western islands to take off the light-house keeper?—A. In the fall of the year?

Q. Yes, under ordinary circumstances?—A. And guarantee to take him off?

Q. Yes, how long would it take?—A. I would go by the day.

Q. Supposing you took him off without a guarantee?—A. Then I would go by the hour.

Q. And how much would you charge per hour?—A. At that time of the year for that tug about \$10 per hour.

Q. How many hours would it take her to make the trip if conditions were favourable, the weather smooth?—A. If we had a real good run out there and back, about 8 hours.

Q. And the charge would be \$80?—A. It would, at that time of year.

Q. At other times of the year what would it be?—A. Oh, in the summer time a tug of that size for ~~an~~ hour work would ordinarily get \$4.

Q. Then the charge would be \$40?—A. That is for going out and back, it would be about \$40 or \$50.

Q. And you only charge \$40 a day for your work for Mr. Fitzpatrick?—A. Yes, but she would not be working, she would be idle pretty nearly half the time.

Q. But all her crew would be on board?—A. She would only have a small crew of two or three men.

Q. Would she not have the same crew on board when she took off the light-keeper?—A. About the same.

Q. And the conditions would be the same, would they not?—A. This was late in December.

Q. Yes, Mr. Playfair, but say you have gone and done the work, and it has only taken you a day, why should you charge more with the same crew aboard than you would at any other time?—A. You are referring to the \$500 now, are you? I do not know what you are referring to.

Q. I am asking you what it would be worth to go to the Western islands with this tug, supposing she were in commission with her crew aboard and steam up, what would it be worth to go to the Western Islands and take off the light-keeper?—A. I have told you that if it were in December, at that time of year it would be worth \$10 per hour.

Q. This is supposing you were hired to do it, but what I am asking you is supposing you had already done it, without any hiring or without any agreement, and you had gone out and taken him off and it had only taken you one day what would you charge me for that work?—A. I do not know what I would charge you at that time, of course it would depend on conditions, \$50 or \$100.

Q. Mr. Burke charged \$25 would that be a fair charge?—A. I think it would be cheap, he must have been doing something else at the time in order to be able to do it at that figure.