

In lands and buildings the major sale was the plant at Naugatuck Chemicals Limited, at Elmira, Ont., acquired by the Dominion Rubber Company Ltd., of Montreal, for \$60,000, a recovery of 35.3 per cent of the original cost of \$170,000.

Am I to understand that was the best possible price which the corporation could get from this company? Were tenders invited, and in view of the shortage of materials and the expense in regard to buying land why was the sale price so little?—A. I can have that specific case looked up, Mr. Chairman. It may well come under one of the general situations where the cost of a plant built for war purposes includes a lot of equipment or items which are of no value in commercial practice at all.

Q. This is just lands and buildings. This is quite specific. I am only giving that one case.—A. As to the building to which you refer, for instance, we might have a building that cost \$200,000 but \$100,000 of that expense might have been incurred in building a rifle range under the building which would have no use commercially.

Q. That scarcely would happen in every building, but here you have a report giving \$12,500,000 as the cost and we sell for \$5,500,000, much less than half price. Why are these companies getting away with such tremendous bargains?—A. I would venture to say they are not getting away with bargains.

Q. I would like to buy a building at less than half price. I think I would have a bargain.—A. There are all sorts of buildings and all sorts of complications. The cost of erecting some of these buildings includes facilities for war production which are of no use in commercial life at all.

Q. That is one of the matters I should like to investigate further later on. Mr. Chairman.—A. We can take any specific building you like and I would be very glad to analyze it and give full reasons.

Q. There is one thing about the Research Enterprises plant which I should like to investigate.

By Mr. Golding:

Q. Before you leave trucks, Mr. Berry, could you tell the committee approximately how many trucks the corporation has for sale, or have you any idea?—A. The other morning in front of the Veterans committee I made a statement, I think, that we had about 67 trucks and passenger cars available for sale as of that morning.

Mr. McILRAITH: That is the Veterans Affairs Committee evidence on Friday.

The WITNESS: This is used ones.

Mr. MACDONNELL: May I ask a question?

The CHAIRMAN: We are just going to get the answer to this question. You are next.

The WITNESS: At the time I made that statement we had 65 used passenger cars, ambulances, station wagons, trucks and tractors in our possession ready for sale, and I told the committee at that time I never knew when I was going to get more trucks in my hands, and while I was telling them at that time I had 65 that was the last report I had I might well go back to my office and find I have 2,065. As it happened it turned out that way because when I got back to the office some of my people started laughing at me and said, "While you were away the army turned in so many trucks at Debert."

By Mr. Golding:

Q. Have you any idea how many trucks and cars you have disposed of?—A. I have not got the detail of that. I can get that.