

By Mr. Kyte:

Q. Who owns the *Simcoe*?—A. The Government, she is a departmental boat.

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. Can you give us any idea of what it would cost to keep the *Simcoe* there for the purpose of this ice-breaking?—A. I should say probably in the vicinity—if she were breaking ice, you say?

Q. To keep her there during the time the ice was forming and to keep her in the harbour?—A. Probably about \$125 a day, that would be the cost of the *Simcoe*, or thereabouts, \$115 to \$135 a day I would say.

Q. And she would have to be kept there how long?—A. Well, the intention was to send the *Simcoe* there.

Mr. GERMAN.—But it would cost that to keep her any place.

WITNESS.—The intention was to send her to Midland and break any ice, if ice was to be broken there, and lay her up in Midland.

By Mr. Pringle:

Q. But you had to keep her crew much longer?—A. Certainly.

Q. And it would be so much extra expense?—A. Certainly.

Q. You would have to keep her from November until the last boat came in, and they are coming now well into December I believe?—A. I do not know when the last boat came into Midland. I was in Midland and I do not remember exactly if any boats were in Midland when I arrived, but no boats came in after I arrived. There is a telegram from me to the Department—I think it is on the file.

Q. On 7th December there was a wire sent to the agent of the Marine and Fisheries Department, "Please wire *Simcoe* at Sault to proceed direct to Midland for ice-breaking."?—A. What date?

Q. December 7th?—A. Well, I think I was in Midland on that day, or the day following, but there should be a telegram from me on the file which will give the date.

Q. Now, in answer to Mr. Bennett's letter this letter was sent:—

My dear Mr. Bennett,

'I am in receipt of your favor of the 4th inst, with reference to the ice forming in the Midland harbour, and in this connection would state that we expect every moment to hear of the arrival of the *C.G.S. Simcoe*.

'With a view to providing against the contingency of the boats arriving and being unable to make their berth, an officer is proceeding to Midland this evening.'

A. Yes, that is my letter.

Q. So you proceeded to Midland evidently on the evening of 7th December?—

A. That is correct.

Q. And you proceeded there prepared to renew this contract if it was necessary?—A. If it was absolutely necessary.

Q. If the ice had formed, and your steamer *Simcoe* could get there, you were going to see that that harbour was kept open in the interests of navigation?—A. I would like to correct a statement there. You asked me whether I went there with the object of renewing this contract. That was not my object. It was to make provision to see that the ice was broken, to allow the last boat to come in.

Q. But you wired Mr. Playfair that you would be there?—A. Certainly.

Mr. BENNETT (*Simcoe*).—Your telegram said "Will be in Midland tomorrow."

WITNESS.—That was on the 7th.