

Q. Within a few days?—A. Yes.

Q. When you gave the order to Mr. Ellis you then notified him or told him it was going to the government?—A. At the time I gave him the order, yes.

Q. And you told him the prices then?—A. Yes, I told him the prices then.

Q. He raised no objections at that time?—A. Not the slightest; in fact he said it was the customary thing to pay commission and he would gladly get the orders.

Q. He was quite willing to take it then?—A. Quite willing.

Q. Without raising any objection?—A. And indicated in his conversation that he would like to have a whole lot more.

Q. How long after was it before he returned the cheque?—A. About Christmas time I saw him. It would be about a month afterwards.

Q. In the same year, 1905?—A. About a month afterwards. I would not be sure about a few days.

Q. He decided then to return the cheque?—A. Yes.

Q. So the difference in the time between accepting the order and the return of the cheque was about a month?—A. From the time he completed the order and sent his envelopes down and got a cheque back from the government and then returned the cheque again—that is the main part, would be a month.

Q. Did you ever talk to Mr. Barber about it?—A. I never saw Mr. Barber in the transaction at all.

Q. At the time of giving the order there was no question about Mr. Ellis accepting it even though he knew at that time he was getting higher prices, or at least higher prices were being paid by the government than he had been receiving?—A. Not the slightest that I saw. He rather indicated he was very pleased to get the order, and would like to get more in the same way.

*By Mr. Crocket:*

Q. Did the firm return the cheque without consulting you?—A. Yes. This conversation that I had, do you see, was after they had returned the cheque, and I had telephoned him do you see, the day before and asked him if he had received payment of the account. He said he had. Then I told him I would be over to adjust the commission, and he said then that he was busy and would I come the next day. I made an appointment for a certain time next day, but before that time arrived he telephoned me again that he was busy or going out of town or something to that effect, and to come in in two or three days, which I did. Then he told me that he had returned the cheque. That was the second day that I had telephoned him.

Q. That was the first intimation you had received from him?—A. Yes.

Q. That he had returned the cheque?—A. Yes, sir.

*By Mr. Johnston:*

Q. Your recollection is that it was a few days before Christmas that you first brought the attention of Mr. Ellis to the matter of your commission?—A. Yes, sir. It would be somewhere about the 20th, I should imagine.

Q. This is a matter of some importance. About the 20th you called Mr. Ellis' attention to your commission?—A. Yes.

MR. JOHNSTON.—There are other questions that the Auditor General might more properly answer in this connection. According to the record the cheque to Mr. Ellis was sent on the 5th December, which is no doubt correct.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL (after an examination of the file).—According to this the cheque was issued on 5th December.

MR. JOHNSTON.—There is still a further record which shows it was forwarded on 5th December, but that is sufficiently correct, that the cheque was issued on that date.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL.—This is simply the date of the issue of the cheque.

MR. JOHNSTON.—Yes, the cheque was issued on the 5th December.

MR. BARKER.—It is received on the 14th.