

6 EDWARD VII., A. 1906

Mr. BARKER.—This is from Mr. Preston to Mr. Smart. Mr. Preston is impressing on Mr. Smart the importance of these individuals, but I cannot find, so far as I have examined these papers, that anybody has ever asked who they are. They are not a company, they are simply ticketing agents as we call them in this country, booking agents they call them there, and he was showing in order to assure Mr. Smart of their standing, that they had \$200,000 capital put up. Well, now, Mr. Cory, can you tell me now, that there is anything showing who these people were or that inquiry was made?

A. No, I have made no inquiry.

*By Mr. Barker :*

Q. Here is a letter from Mr. Smart on the 17th of October, 1899, to Lord Strathcona: 'I have brought the matter of the continental arrangements to Mr. Sifton's attention and he has expressed his approval of the draft agreement, and as soon as Mr. Preston can get the matter arranged there is no reason why he should not proceed at once to carry it out. Of course when it comes to settling on the terms I presume there are some questions that will arise and details which will have to be settled, but these will, I presume, be reported in due course. I will be very glad to hear from you in regard to the arrangement as to Mr. Preston's duties.'

That is a formal letter addressed to Lord Strathcona, but it simply tells that the proposition for that contract was made to Mr. Preston and forwarded to the department and approved by the department here. I call attention to that because it was supposed that Lord Strathcona was making the arrangements.

Mr. Preston on the 26th of October, 1899, writes a confidential letter to Lord Strathcona, and I shall read a few extracts from it. Mr. Preston in connection with that legal difficulty proposed to come out here and Mr. Smart thought it was not necessary. He then goes on, 'Your Lordship will possibly remember that in a former report (this is dated on the 26th of October) presented to you last May, I had the honour to recommend that the policy heretofore in vogue, on the continent, might be changed with advantage to Canada, and in this connection I suggested that an agreement might possibly be arrived at with persons in the various countries, so that they might work in harmony in promoting emigration to Canada, in so far as they are allowed by the laws in operation in the several countries. The suggested outline of policy appeared to meet with the approval of the department at Ottawa, so that on the occasion of the visit of the Deputy Minister to London a short while ago, it formed one of the subjects for consideration.'

Then he says: 'Owing to the unexpected departure (this is the same letter), of the Deputy Minister a few days earlier than he had intended, a conference on this subject which it was understood would take place on your return to London, was unavoidably prevented. However, I reported to your Lordship in conversation the changes made by Mr. Smart, and he took with him to Ottawa the final draft of the proposed agreement, for the purpose of further considering it and submitting it to the Minister of the Interior, the outcome of which he cabled to your Lordship on the 16th inst.' Then after intimating that the proposals or suggestions were approved 'your Lordship will also remember that an understanding was arrived at previous to Mr. Smart's departure, that a final agreement by your Lordship and the department was intended to be of such a character so that upon receiving an understanding of approval I should have authority to proceed to the continent, and to make arrangements along the lines of the proposals.' Then he deals with the legal question.

'The parties with whom I negotiated on the above lines immediately formed themselves into a syndicate; they engaging while conforming to the laws in all the countries where the laws are restrictive as also in those where no restrictions exist, to do all in their power to promote emigration to Canada. Just here, I might add for your Lordship's information, as also for the Department of the Interior, that it is intended,—subject of course to submitting the arrangements to the department, that the work of this syndicate will likely assume a wider phase than simply further-

Mr. W. W. CORY.