

Mr. TEAKLE: No.

Mr. CLARK: Have you any cold storage, in any of the ships, for the carriage of fruits, such as bananas.

Mr. TEAKLE: No.

Mr. POWER: While you want more ships on the West Indies lines, according to your statement, the two ships that are operating there now are operating at a loss because they are not suitable.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: There are two aspects to the West Indian trade. One route pays and the other does not.

Mr. POWER: You state that the West Indies Passenger service, established at the request of the government, in compliance with the Canadian West Indies trade agreement still continues, as originally anticipated, to be operated at a loss. Is that because the ships are not fitted for that trade?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: The ships, Mr. Power, are quite unsatisfactory for the trade. They are not modern passenger ships, and we feel that if we had suitable accommodation there we could improve that situation.

Mr. JELLIFF: Have you taken any steps either to build or secure ships?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I suppose you have to get authority from the government first.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: In this instance, yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: In some instances you manage to beat them to it?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I have not found any tendency to that recently. We always try to keep within the rules of the game, but as long as we can win under the rules, there is no reason why we should not.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Sir Henry, one member of the house has insistently questioned me regarding the cattle business, and I undertook to bring the matter before this committee when the officials of the merchant marine were here. That is Colonel Mullins. He is very much interested in that matter, and he wants to know, briefly, if we are in the cattle business, and if not, why not? And if we are not in it, why don't we go into it and reduce the rate from \$20 to \$15. That, briefly put, is Mr. Mullins' question, which he desires discussed.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Would you like a sermon preached on that particular question this morning? If so, we will.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: It is a matter that I think a number of the members of the committee will want examined because of the insistence with which the member mentioned has raised the matter, and also because it is of general interest.

The CHAIRMAN: If you want to answer that you may.

Mr. POWER: Why not wait until Colonel Mullins comes?

The CHAIRMAN: He is not on the committee.

Mr. HEAPS: Yesterday, you extended an invitation for him to be present. The committee was called for eleven and it is now twenty-five minutes to twelve.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: I did not ask him specifically for to-day, but in view of the general interest and the possibility that we might not be dealing with the Merchant Marine in the future, I think it might be discussed now.

Mr. CLARK: Perhaps the clerk of the committee might telephone him.

Mr. POWER: While we are waiting for Mr. Mullins, would you tell us whether or not any of your boats are engaged in the coal trade.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Where?

Mr. POWER: Anywhere in the coal trade.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Mr. Teakle, will you tell Major Power about the coal trade.

Mr. TEAKLE: We are not carrying coal, except as occasion offers from South Wales in our Cardiff-Swansea service.