

Q. Where is the book that will show that charge of \$5,500?—A. We haven't got it in any book. As I told you, when we got the cheque we handed it over to the *Beaumont* and the *Minnedora* for doing the work.

Q. Where are the accounts for the *Beaumont* and the *Minnedora*?—A. We do not keep the accounts for them, we do not own them, they belong to the dredging company, but I had them breaking the ice.

Q. Turn me up the account of the *Beaumont* in your ledger.—A. I haven't any, I do not keep accounts for them. As soon as I got the cheque for \$5,500, I handed that over to the boats which did the work.

Q. Now, the *Beaumont* and the *Minnedora* having done the work the owners of those boats were paid \$4,500?—A. \$4,500, yes.

Q. Who got the \$1,000?—A. The Inland line.

Q. The Inland line got \$1,000. With whom was the arrangement made that the *Beaumont* and the *Minnedora* were to get \$4,500?—A. I made that with Mr. Pratt, the manager.

Q. With Mr. Pratt, representing the Dredging Company?—A. Yes.

Q. And with whom on the other side?—A. Myself.

Q. Yourself?—A. You see the *Beaumont* is a steel tug, and we kept her at it, and we kept our own two tugs in commission in case anything happened to the *Beaumont*, so that we would get through.

Q. You say that a bargain was made between you and Mr. Pratt that the Dredging Company were to have \$4,500, and you were to have \$1,000?—A. There was no bargain made. I told Mr. Pratt that I would get him to do the work, and then I would see what it was worth when we got through, what damage had been done to the boat; the *Beaumont* got quite a lot of damage done to her, so we settled at the total amount of \$4,500.

Q. So that there was no bargain made with the Dredging Company as to the amount which those tugs were to receive?—A. No, not before the end.

Q. And you have no means of showing how long those tugs were employed in the work?—A. Well, they were employed up till the end.

Q. But you have no means to-day of showing by the books how long they were employed in the work?—A. Oh, yes, I have. Here is a telegram that I got from Captain Pearson of the *Midland Prince* stating when he arrived. I will show it to the Chairman and he can read it, or may be I had better read it, perhaps I can read the writing better (reads):—

“Owen Sound, Ont. 25 Feb.”

Q. This year?—A. Yes, I got it from Captain Pearson, (reads)

Mr. JAMES PLAYFAIR,

On my last trip season winter ten December seventh while entering Midland Bay when almost off Gin Rock ran into ice about three to five inches thick which increased to six inches almost Snake Island had great difficulty in making turn to proceed to Victoria Harbour and had it not been for the assistance of the two tugs would not have been able to deliver our cargo, unloaded about one hundred and fifty thousand bushels wheat same day on December eighth with assistance of tugs turned around ice being good eight inches arrived at Tiffin elevator where we unloaded balance of cargo when finished steamer proceeded to winter quarters Midland Harbour being assisted by tugs.

GEO. W. PEARSON

Master Str. *Midland Prince*

Q. What is that date?—A. 25th.

Q. Of what month?—A. February.