

By Mr. Reid (Grenville):

Q. Are you doing any better than Bate?—A. I think we buy cheaper than we could from Bate. We have been purchasing better than from Bate.

Q. Is it the usual custom to get a cash discount?—A. It depends altogether on the way you are making your payments. We could not get a discount out of these goods because it is so long before the accounts are paid. They have to wait until the goods have been received and have been checked off. It may take sometimes three months before our invoices are checked, and then the time would have expired for this cash discount.

Q. I suppose there is a good deal of stuff supplied in Ottawa?—A. Not of groceries.

Q. Not of groceries, but of all other goods I mean. I am taking it now on everything. There does not seem to be any cash discount allowed on anything, that is practically the position?—A. It makes very little difference whether you get a discount or a closer price; it amounts to the same thing.

Q. I have been under the impression that on all goods you bought from any of these manufacturing industries or grocers, there has always been a cash discount. Now have you any idea how much was paid for groceries during the fiscal year?—A. Altogether?

Q. Altogether?—A. It runs to somewhat over \$300,000. There is a report somewhere.

Q. And on that practically there was no cash discount at all?—A. Sometimes we get a 20 per cent discount. When we are dealing with the Hughes-Owen Company—that is in stationery—we get 20 per cent better price than the ordinary purchaser.

Q. What is the name of that firm?—A. The Hughes-Owen Company. They supply railroads.

Q. That is for stationery?—A. That is for such things as paper.

Q. Who checks these deliveries?—A. We have them checked by different people. The goods are usually checked by the persons receiving them. If the matter is any way intricate at all my assistant goes down and does the checking. We keep a very strict supervision, and the checking must be done accurately, so that what is received must balance with what is charged up.

Q. What do you do when the goods are sent direct?—A. If the goods go direct they must be certified to. We send an order some time previous to their receiving the goods, and when the goods arrive they have the order there to compare the goods with and check it off.

Q. Who gives you the requisition for the quantities you purchase?—A. If you mean the engineering parties if it is outside the stores they will get it through the engineer. The engineer requisitions his district engineer and the district engineer requisitions the chief engineer.

Q. Have you got a store in Ottawa where you keep goods?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you keep all kinds of stores?—A. No, we only keep such things as supplies for the men—clothing, and all kinds of stationery for the engineers. What I mean is tents, blankets, packstraps, instruments and such things as that.

Q. Wearing apparel?—A. Yes, for the men. We charge that against the pay-roll.

Q. Do you charge it against the man?—A. Yes, and he refunds back to the commission.

Q. Do you charge a profit?—A. No, we do not charge a profit, but we have to charge up what the transport costs.

Q. It is only goods of that kind you keep in stock?—A. Yes.

Q. And you keep no groceries?—A. No.

By Mr. Chisholm (Antigonish):

Q. You got this account of November 24 of the Barber & Ellis Company?—A. Yes.