

and of course the committee can have it if requested, but with regard to what we owe them and they owe us—we do not owe them anything. What was your third point? We did not pay them any more—

Mr. HANSON: Did you agree to pay them anything?

Mr. H. SIFTON: Not a dollar.

An hon. MEMBER: Do you consider the Dominion should pay them anything?

Mr. H. SIFTON: That is a matter for the committee.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: You are now speaking of the section of the Bill which provides for the government to take over these undertakings?

Mr. H. SIFTON: That is it.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: You are not discussing a possible claim against the government in case this charter is not renewed?

Mr. H. SIFTON: No, sir; we are not discussing it, but I was answering the two or three questions asked by Mr. Geary.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: If you have not paid the previous owners of the charter anything, or promised to pay them anything, may I ask how you got control of the charter

Mr. H. SIFTON: We have done certain things for them, and we undertook to carry on the business from now on, in exchange for which they gave us permission to vote the equity stock.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: Eventually you would have to pay them something?

Mr. H. SIFTON: Of course. If we went on and they wanted to get out, for instance, we would put up our bill against their bill and adjust it.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: You are really almost partners?

Mr. H. SIFTON: That is all, at their request.

Mr. GEARY: If this charter is not renewed, what claim will be made against this government?

Mr. H. SIFTON: I will not answer that to-day. The committee will have to decide that. Our claim will be very small.

Mr. KAISER: It would clear the matter very considerably if you would be frank.

Mr. H. SIFTON: I don't understand that—

Mr. KAISER: What is the amount of your claim?

Mr. H. SIFTON: I don't know. It will be the keeping up of the staff, etc., for about two years; that is all.

Mr. KAISER: You have some idea?

Mr. H. SIFTON: I do not know how big it will be.

Mr. POULIOT: What is the name of your company?

Mr. H. SIFTON: The Georgian Bay Canal Company.

Mr. POULIOT: Who are the directors of your company?

Mr. H. SIFTON: I have not got a list of them; there are twelve or fourteen of them. Just a moment; Mr. Ritchie will take up that question and the whole history of the charter when his time comes on. I do not think I can answer these questions at random.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Sifton has not cleared up to my mind—

Mr. H. SIFTON: I am going to say some more, so it may be cleared up later.

Mr. GARDINER: With regard to the question you are just answering; you stated you would have a claim against the Dominion government, although it might not be very large.

[Mr. Harry Sifton.]