

Q. And then, so far as your department is concerned, the matter was closed up, and Vickers were released?—A. I do not know whether Vickers were released or not.

Q. I say, so far as your department was concerned?—A. The transaction was closed.

Q. You released the deposit anyway?—A. We released the deposit and applied it as part payment of that refund.

Q. Can you tell from those papers when the contract was signed, was it the 14th March, 1914?—A. That is the date the Order in Council authorized it. It would be somewhere about that date that it was signed.

Q. Do you know when or if they had commenced construction?—A. They did, I am not sure of the date, some time in 1914.

Q. Have you the dates of the payments of the progress estimates which I presume would give some indication of the progress of the work?—A. The first instalment of 10 per cent on the contract was paid on an account dated 8th September, 1914.

Q. How much?—A. \$99,858.30.

Q. That is on the 8th September, 1914?—A. Yes.

Q. Of course, not having the contract before you, you do not know, I suppose, whether that represented work actually constructed or whether they had agreed to make advances?—A. It would be for work constructed on a progress estimate.

Q. When was the next payment authorized?—A. December 31, 1914, \$49,929.15, second instalment in connection with the construction of the vessel.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the date of that?—A. 31st December, 1914. These payments set out practically what was done. The second instalment, namely, 5 per cent, when cylinders, column and bed plates are cast. The contract arranges for certain percentages when certain progress was made.

Q. What percentage was that?—A. 5 per cent.

By Mr. Carvell:

Q. Perhaps you might go back and state for what parts of the work the first 10 per cent was paid.—A. 10 per cent, construction No. 1, when the keel plate is laid. That is the first instalment.

Q. Then the vessel was actually located in their yards and the ground occupied and all that when the first 10 per cent was paid?—A. It must have been.

Q. They could not move that very well.—A. The third instalment, March 30, 1915: "Third instalment on icebreaker due when the boilers are plated and the cylinders are bored, 10 per cent."

By Mr. Bennett (Simcoe):

Q. Who certified to those estimates before they were paid?—A. Charles Duguid, for the Marine Department.

By Mr. Carvell:

Q. Lloyds certified also, is that not true, Mr. Auditor?—A. Lloyds Register of British and Foreign Shipping—there are some documents here signed by the surveyor of Lloyds.

Q. I think they were certified by Lloyds as well as by the Ottawa Department.

By Mr. Bennett (Simcoe):

Q. In what capacity does Mr. Duguid sign?—A. As Naval Constructor.

Q. For whom?—A. The Marine Department. The fourth instalment is on October 15, 1915: "Fourth instalment on icebreaker equivalent to 10 per cent of \$998,583, when the vessel is framed with stem and stern post in position." Certified for payment on the 21st October, by Charles Duguid.