

competitor come in and take the traffic away from us. I will be very glad to give this information to any member of the committee privately. I hope you will understand the reason for this.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Perhaps this will meet the case. The trade that Mr. Clark is interested in I suppose is the Pacific Coastal trade.

Mr. CLARK: Yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Two years ago we were considering something like a forward movement in connection with the fleet, and your view then was that a satisfactory showing had been made there, and that while you wanted two boats for the West Indies, you wanted one extra boat for the Pacific.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: And I suppose that is still your view.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes. I may say to General Clark that we have got one trade route on which I know perfectly well, if the particulars of our business on that route were broadcasted, we would have a competitor in three months' time.

The CHAIRMAN: We have had that in mind at previous meetings. There is no disposition to withhold any information at all, but I think the members of the committee will realize the propriety of not giving away details which might be prejudicial to the business.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I can refer to a case that occurred within the last week, and I know it is being watched closely.

Mr. HEAPS: No private corporation would give away details of that kind and I do not think we should expect it from the management of the Merchant Marine.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: If any member wants details I will be glad to give them.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): The ships are incorporated, I understand, as private companies.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Each ship is a separate company.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): It would be possible to look into the profits of each ship would it not?

The CHAIRMAN: That is impossible.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): I suppose these ships go on different routes.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes, we have different trade routes. Eleven.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): It would be hard to ascertain which is profitable and which not, unless you took it by the voyage.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I can give any individual member of the committee any information that he wants, but do not ask me to give away what we are making some money out of.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): Not at all.

Mr. CLARK: What lines have you now with the West Indies?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: You had better explain to General Clark just what the West Indian Service is, Mr. Teakle, in detail.

Mr. TEAKLE: The West Indian service, as we are operating it, consists of a ten day service out of Montreal in the summer time and a fortnightly service out of Halifax and St. John in the winter time, to Antigua, St. Kitts, Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara. On the western route we have a service every three weeks to the Bermudas, Jamaica and British Honduras. We divide them into the eastern, which takes in the Leeward and Demerara; and the western which takes in Jamaica and Belize.

Mr. CLARK: Have you any service between Vancouver and the West Indies?

Mr. TEAKLE: Not at the present time.

Mr. CLARK: Have you any service between Vancouver and the Fiji Islands.