

By Mr. Fowler:

Q. What do you say to that?—A. I told you—

Q. Apparently he is the man who takes the initiative to say whether the harbour is to be kept clear of ice and suggests the contract, and yet you say he does not know anything about it?—A. I would tell him to write what he wrote.

Q. You told him what to write?—A. If he wrote a letter to the department he would ask me before he wrote it.

Q. What to write?—A. About the matter.

Q. And he would write it according to your instructions?—A. I do not know, he might put a word in wrong, and I would not see the letter before it went out, and there might be a wrong word there.

Q. Do you say this gentleman is so careless of the truth, this man Grant, that he would state that this amount was for keeping Midland harbour open from the 27th November to 14th December, mark the dates,—that could not be a mere slip out as you call it; that must have been deliberate?—A. I would say that not being conversant with marine matters he might easily put a wrong word in.

Q. What wrong word has he put in?—A. About keeping the harbour open.

Q. It is not a word, it is a whole phrase?—A. I think the easiest way to fix that would be to see the bills sent for that \$500, and see how it reads.

Q. Read that account out, Mr. Playfair?—A. That is 1905, keeping the tug *Minnetaga* in commission, and keeping the harbour open until the last steamer arrived on December 14th.

Q. Then it gives the date?—A. November 30, 1905.

Q. Read the account?—A. "To keeping tug *Minnetaga* in commission and keeping the harbour open till last ~~steamer~~ arrived on December 14, 1905, \$500."

Q. That gives the date. Who made out that amount?—A. Our book-keeper, Mr. Benson.

Q. Your book-keeper makes out this account, and your solicitor writes this letter? And in both cases it is for keeping the harbour open, and you say it was not for keeping the harbour open?—A. I say it was for taking off the lighthouse keeper.

Q. We want to take all these statements in?—A. That is 1905.

Q. This is the hand-writing of your book-keeper?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. We may want the book-keeper; is he in commission yet?—A. He is around.

Q. And we will probably want Mr. Grant. Now, what lighthouse keeper was it?—A. From memory, as I said before, he was from the Western islands.

Q. Do you know a man of the name of Ed. Burke?—A. Yes.

Q. Who is he?—A. One of our captains.

Q. Did this man in 1906 have a tug of his own?—A. No, sir.

Q. He did not. Wasn't he the man who brought off this Western island lighthouse keeper that year?—A. Yes, I think he brought him off. He was one of our captains, and he had an interest in the *Minnetaga*.

Q. Do you know of Burke putting in any account for this same service, bringing off the Western islands lighthouse keeper?—A. I do not think so.

Q. And charging \$25 for it?—A. I do not think so.

Q. Would that not be a fair price?—A. It would not pay for the oil.

Q. Would not pay for the oil?—A. Not at that time of the year.

Q. Was there ice-breaking to be done, did you have to break the ice to get to the Western islands?—A. No.

Q. What tug was it?—A. I think it was the *Minnetaga*.

Q. How big is she?—A. She is a little tug about sixty feet long.

Q. What would it be worth to go to the Western islands and bring off this lighthouse keeper? There was no ice-breaking to be done?—A. In December?

Q. Whenever this service was performed?—A. It was easily worth \$200 or \$300.

Q. How long would it take?—A. You might be three or four days and you might be a day.