

Q. And then a copy of the contract between the Russian Government and the Vickers, Limited, London?—A. We can produce our own contract at any moment.

Q. How about the other?

Hon. Mr. REID: I do not know whether we can get it.

*By Mr. Devlin:*

Q. Have you a copy in the Department?—A. I do not think we have. I would not like to say positively. If it is in the Department we will produce it.

*By Mr. Carvell:*

Q. We are asking if you have it?—A. I am not quite sure about that. I have not had an opportunity of refreshing my memory about this, and I have not yet got the details in my mind, but we will produce it if it is in the file. I would like to follow this up. We sent that communication on the first of May, asking for some information. We thought we were entitled to some information from the Colonial Office as to what was going on. That was on the first of May and we waited until the 21st of June. We were still without any instructions, we were still without any information as to how this work was to be carried on, and our Inspector was still somewhat uncertain as to the policy he should pursue in respect to the modifications that were being made in the contract by Vickers, acting, as they said, on instructions from the Head Office in London, and after another discussion between Duguid and myself I wrote a second letter on the 21st of June, the first letter having been sent on the 1st of May.

*By Hon. Mr. Reid:*

Q. To the Under Secretary?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Carvell:*

Q. Who signed the answer to your letter of the 1st of May?—A. Bonar Law. Witness then read letter written by him on 21st June.

Q. Up to that time had your department authorized any change in the specifications?—A. Absolutely not.

Q. That is up to the 21st of June?—A. Up to the 21st of June.

Q. Up to the 21st of June you say the department had never authorized any change in the specifications—A. Had authorized no changes.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. Were you led to consider that the changes were extensive?—A. We were so advised.

Q. By your own officers?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Carvell:*

Q. Not by your own officers?—A. Yes.

*By Hon. Mr. Reid:*

Q. Duguid said they were making changes?—A. At the request of the Russian Government.

*By Mr. Carvell:*

Q. Did he tell you what the changes were?—A. He may have told me, I only recollect it in a general way. In matters of this kind I cannot go into details because I have not sufficient technical knowledge to appreciate what the changes would mean.