

Q. But the information is in this letter that there was a possibility?—A. I was pointing out to the Deputy Minister of Marine what might happen, and from my experience with Canadian Vickers I did not think they would lose an opportunity to make—

Q. That is rather a serious charge against a reputable firm?—A. No, I do not think it is. A business firm makes all the money it can legitimately. I did not propose that it should so far as I was concerned.

Q. You asked for certain documents and got them?—A. I got them and passed the entry. I thought I had enough. I had the assurance of Mr. Johnston and I had the Order-in-Council which provides for a transfer. If there is any other document, I have not seen it.

*By Hon. Mr. Reid:*

Q. Did the Dominion Government lose anything on this transaction?—A. That depends on how you put it. That vessel when you parted with it was worth a good deal more money. You cannot replace it to-day.

*By Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Prospective profit?—A. We have the contract. If we have to proceed and build the vessel again, it will cost us a great deal more.

*By Mr. Davidson:*

Q. Was this transaction between the Russian Government and the Vickers concern directly, or through the mediation of an English company? Did they buy directly or make a contract with an Imperial company? Who made arrangements with Vickers?—A. Do you want me to give hearsay evidence again? According to the documents—

Hon. Mr. REID: It might be as well, perhaps, as Mr. Fraser is coming on Friday to make his statement then of all he knows about that. Is there any objection?

Mr. CARVELL: None whatever.

*By Mr. Bennett (Simcoe):*

Q. Was there a third person present at this conversation?—A. Only the two of us.

*By Mr. Blain:*

Q. Mr. Fraser, in so far as the contract between Vickers Ltd. and the Canadian Government is concerned, was there anything wrong in any way, or had you any suspicion of anything being wrong?—A. The contract for the construction of the vessel?—none whatever.

Q. It was carried out honestly?—A. So far as I know.

Mr. CARVELL: There is an Order in Council, Mr. Blain, I have a copy of it here, and the Auditor General ought to have it, dated March 14, 1914, setting forth the whole transaction, and you will find it perfectly correct and straight.

Witness retired.