

about what our banana consumption is?—A. Our banana consumption in Canada?

Q. Yes.—A. I have that in the office, but I cannot tell you offhand what it is. It is very considerable.

Mr. LOGAN: Really, it seems to me you can get almost any statement as to the amount of bananas we use in Canada. I got a statement which I put on Hansard the other day from the Customs Department, I think, of some 2,100,000 stems. On the other hand, I see it stated in trade papers and other papers which would seem to speak with authority that it amounts to anywhere up to 9,000,000. I would like to get the thing correctly.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the committee has not a quorum now, so I do not see much purpose in continuing.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. I would like Sir Henry Thornton to go into that.—A. Perhaps I could answer it partly by saying that we have a representative there now who is going into the question of the whole possibilities of our trade in the West Indies.

Q. It occurred to me that the United Fruit Company, with all its resources, would not welcome our going into the field, and that it might be that a proper working arrangement can be made under which their properly equipped boats would collect bananas for you under terms to be mutually agreed on so we could get our bananas and our other fruits in direct.—A. Yes, I think that is quite an important thing.

Q. They have a pickup service, and there is no use our spending money if we can get the results without. It would be a good deal better to let them have some profit on the collection of the fruit, and get bananas and other fruits in directly.

Mr. LOGAN: May I suggest one thing? I would suggest to Sir Henry the cutting out of sending a large ship such as the *Canadian Fisher* or the *Canadian Forester* away on to Belize. It seems to me—and I think the general opinion of everyone with whom I have discussed the matter—that when you get to Kingston, to go on to the little port of Belize, you have to travel anywhere from three to four days of straight sailing without getting very much cargo. It seems to me that that could be arranged as a sort of side line trip.

The WITNESS: What draught of water do these pickup boats have? Would it be about 10 or 12 feet?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: At the outside, I should say from looking at them. They run around 1,200 tons.

The witness retired.

The Committee adjourned.

STATEMENT showing Results of Voyages of Steamers carrying Cattle from Montreal, Season 1923

S. S. Commander, Voyage 14.....	216 cattle	\$	4,320 00
Sailing date July 27.....			
Destination.....	Cardiff		
Duration Voyage.....	47 days		
Earnings, Eastbound.....	30,554 37		
" Westbound.....	3,314 94		
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Expenses.....	33,869 31		
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Deficit.....			4,581 32
Principal Commodities—	Quantity	Earnings	
Cheese.....	167 tons	\$	2,244 40
Grain.....	285,788 bushels		19,072 17
Provisions.....	215 tons		2,174 665
Cereals.....	104 tons		840 60
(Sir Henry Thornton.)			