

*By Mr. Geoffrion, Counsel for the Company :*

Q. Please continue your answer ?—A. As an officer and director of the company, before acting in the manner of authorizing the payment, I not only took the advice of counsel, but I also as stated, laid the entire matter before two of the most experienced, practical life insurance men in the city of New York, with the advice on their part that in their opinion, as practical insurance men, it was for the best interests of the policy-holders to enter into the arrangement and make the payment, and that was the advice of counsel and on that it was paid.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Was it not a condition, when these people made these objections against the company—was it not one of the demands that the president should resign and that they would drop proceedings?—A. I never saw that objection.

Q. Did you not hear of it ?—A. What is the question ?

Q. Was there not a proposition made on behalf of the policy-holders to allow the charges to drop if President Burnham would retire at the following election ?—A. I never heard of such a thing until it was sworn to in some proceedings in New York a year or two afterwards, and has been sworn to here, but I never heard of it at the time.

Q. There is no doubt the proposition was made ?—A. They were to apply, as I understand, to the Attorney General for permission to begin a suit for the removal of the president, and I think, myself. My impression is when it was finally filed it did not include me, but I am not positive as to that.

Mr. COSTER, K.C.—We have the actual documents here, why not let it go in?

Hon. Mr. BÉIQUE.—I think it is perfectly fair and within your rights to offer such part of the document as is necessary.

Mr. COSTER, K.C.—I will offer the whole of it, and let the Committee direct what portion of it shall go on the minutes.

*By Mr. Geoffrion, Counsel for the Company :*

Q. I understood you to say this application which was brought that year was renewed about a year after?—A. An application was made, I think it was the very latter part of 1899, to the Attorney General, for right to begin a suit to remove the president and myself possibly, but I think it only included the president at that time—without reference to the document I could not say.

Q. Was that in 1898 or 1899?—A. The application to the Attorney General was made in 1899.

Q. Early in 1899 or in the fall of that year?—A. The latter part of 1899.

*By Mr. Coster, K.C., Counsel for the Committee :*

Q. You are not speaking of the General Tracy matter now?—A. No.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. I know there was a movement in the fall of 1898 to have Mr. Burnham removed. You are speaking of another suit?—A. Yes.

*By the Hon. Mr. Béique :*

Q. As far as the proceedings through General Tracy are concerned, the proceedings were prepared but were not presented to the Attorney General, were they?—A. I do not know whether they were prepared or not. I never saw them.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. That was in 1898?—A. Yes, in 1898.