

Q. You must have an awful stack of them— —A. I have the facts on this matter because I was the director-general of automotive and tank production during the war period. Just to illustrate this, we established with the United Kingdom a bank of trucks that we were carrying in Canada for the supply of the fighting forces of all allied nations and we agreed that bank would be held to 30,000 vehicles. Towards the termination of the war—

Q. That was the Canadian deposit in the bank or the whole bank?—
A. That was the number we were carrying in the bank in Canada. The reason for that bank was so that if shipping space came available in a hurry we could get trucks into that shipping space, as they are a very convenient form of cargo, and we did not want to waste any shipping space during the war days. That was one of the reasons. The other reason was that somebody might want trucks, and quite a number of them in a hurry for any campaign that was opening up or anything that was likely to happen. Of that 30,000 trucks by the end of the war we had gradually cut down and cut down on that bank and reduced our rate of production until at the end of the war while I do not think this 16,000 represents the overall total that was here at the end of the war relatively it was not very much greater than that. So that I do not expect to get more than 13,492 new trucks.

Q. That is all you expect to get?—A. That is relatively all I expect to get, but on the used trucks I do not know how many I will be getting. That again is dependent on how many the armed forces find are surplus to their requirements.

Q. But did we not have a lot of cars and trucks available for the Pacific theatre which we never got into because of the shortness of the war? What happened to the total vehicle production which was set out in these booklets of the Department of Munitions and Supply during the war? Was it a million and a half motor vehicles turned out by Canada?

Mr. McILRAITH: I think that great numbers of them were sold.

The WITNESS: I think roughly 970,000 from memory. I think that is about the figure.

By Mr. Bradette:

Q. War Assets Corporation would not have any unless you are told how much is going to be turned over to your department?—A. Correct. I believe the new trucks and cars, 13,492, represent all that will be coming into my hands. I believe that is about the total I will be getting.

By Mr. Jackman:

Q. In other words, you are practically through?—A. On new cars and trucks. I am hopeful that within the next month I will have sold all the new cars and trucks including the ones which are not complete, which are in knocked-down form and require a plant for assembly, and all the rest of it.

Q. It would include those?—A. I am hoping those will all be sold within the next month.

Q. Have you any idea as to what has happened to the nine hundred and some odd thousand motor vehicles which were manufactured in Canada?

Mr. BRADETTE: He cannot know until they are declared surplus.

Mr. McILRAITH: They went to Russia and Great Britain.

The WITNESS: As director-general of the automotive and tank production branch I did have a complete record of where these cars and trucks were shipped to. They were shipped to all parts of the globe for the use of the armed forces. Towards the end of the war the major part of them was going to India for the Pacific theatre.