

## APPENDIX No. 6

*By Mr. Lancaster :*

Q. Who is that from?—A. It is from Mr. Shields.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. From whom?—A. John C. Shields, manager of the Independent Lumber Co.

Mr. HERRON.—I don't know about the admission of such evidence.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't know what good that is.

Mr. HERRON (to witness).—You might read all the letters of that kind in the world, and it could not possibly take the place of the correspondence of your own officers here, and there are a hundred letters or more in our possession.

*By Mr. Lancaster :*

Q. These are letters dealing with facts that happened, whereas the letter you propose to read contains merely the opinion of an individual?—A. Surely you would take the opinion of Mr. Shields, in view of the fact that he has twenty yards, and is able to get lumber from every manufacturer, whether on the printed list or not.

Q. It would be like a man making a statement in the witness-box and refusing to be cross-examined. If Mr. Shields were here and said out of his own mouth what you are going to read, it would be all right; he could be cross-examined. But to make a second-hand statement, as he chooses to make it, and without his being subject to cross-examination, I think—I do not object to straining the rules of evidence on these matters to a certain extent—would be going too far. Honestly I do?—A. If he simply makes a statement?

Q. These other letters that have been produced contain statements, and witnesses were asked about them, but we have no opportunity of making Mr. Shields explain anything. It is all right for you to put in your own statement, because we can ask you about it?—A. Yes, certainly.

Q. We have that chance, and we get the facts, reasonably of course, but we might be very much deceived by that letter without any chance of an explanation by Mr. Shields?—A. The letter simply gives a history of his business, states the number of yards that he has, and that he has no difficulty in buying lumber, and that—

Mr. LANCASTER.—I do not want to impute that he is not telling the truth, but you see we have no opportunity of testing the accuracy of his statement.

The CHAIRMAN.—He could write any sort of letter he liked.

Mr. LANCASTER.—I don't mean to say he would.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't say that he would, but I say he might.

The WITNESS.—This man is not a member of the association.

The CHAIRMAN.—I don't know that that has got anything to do with it either.

The WITNESS.—He is an independent man and he buys his lumber.

The CHAIRMAN.—He has a large number of yards.

*By Mr. Lancaster :*

Q. You believe that?—A. I certainly do.

Q. If he were here he might surprise you by telling you a good deal that you don't know about it. Lots of witnesses have told surprising things when questioned as to them?—A. It appears to me that if the object of the inquiry is to get all the information—

Q. Yes?—A. And if it is claimed that the operation of the association prevents certain things—that is, prevents the manufacturers from selling to other than members of the Retail Association, the committee should possess themselves of all the information.

Q. What I wish to say is there is no information for this committee in that letter unless it is sworn to. I do not want to insult Mr. Shields by implying that he would write a letter that is not true, but we have got to face the fact that it is not informa-