

Q. We have not come to that yet?—A. No. Dealing with the Regina mail order branch—

Q. Before you come to that, you have three suburban offices at Toronto?—A. Yes.

Q. And that total volume was?—A. \$286,041.

Q. That is the three suburban offices?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea of the expenses of operating these small suburban offices?—A. I have not got them here.

Q. It has been suggested that the offices that are maintained paid very little in the way of contribution to the local community as against contributions made to the local merchants for taxes, rent, and the upkeep of the various community interests, and I wonder if you could give us some idea of just what are the amounts paid by such order offices?—A. I have not the detail here.

Q. In suburban areas that produce such a volume as \$286,000, that is approximately \$92,000 per office?—A. We have not the details of the expense.

Q. We can get that later?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Factor:

Q. Mr. Adamson, you say in your statement that stocks of heavy goods are maintained at these offices?

Mr. SOMMERVILLE: Not at the suburban offices.

Mr. FACTOR: He says, "expenses of these offices are paid by the company and stocks of heavy goods are maintained at these offices." Does not that relate to suburban offices?

Mr. SOMMERVILLE: There are other offices away from Toronto other than suburban where goods are kept.

By the Chairman:

Q. Before we get away from this particular point, this covers the system of agencies that Simpsons have in other parts of the country. For instance, in the earlier part of your report I think you referred to a list of these agencies, among them being, for instance, Saskatoon?—A. Yes.

Q. That would be one of them?—A. Yes. That which I have just read is Toronto, and the next section deals with Regina.

Q. Well, as we are just coming to that I will deal with it now. Intimations have been conveyed to the committee that this retailing policy of Simpsons in the West which you are about to refer to is destructive of the general retail business of the western communities. They refer to the mail order system which, of course, is not peculiar to Simpsons at all, and then they also refer to what we are now discussing; they are now branching out and appointing agents all over the provinces, and it is intimated that the intention is to have 15 agencies in the province of Saskatchewan, and it intimates here that Prince Rupert, Battleford, and so on are the places which I think were read out yesterday by you.

Mr. HEAPS: Is there any objection to stating, Mr. Chairman, the source of that information?

The CHAIRMAN: It is some information that came to the committee from western Canada.

Mr. HEAPS: As a rule I do not like anonymous correspondence.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not reading this particularly in that sense; I am just intimating what the class of complaint is. I am not reading the letter as a complaint from anybody, I am merely intimating that it is a type of complaint that we have. There are a great many letters of this character, but I am merely citing the type of complaint, that this class of business is interfering with