

Q. Then, how much was the tax paid for the mortgage?—A. The registration for the mortgage was 750,000 francs.

Q. That would make a total in connection with the original transaction of 4,110,000 francs. Is that right?—A. Yes.

Q. That closed the first transaction. There was no further impost to pay there, I hope?—A. There would be the legal fees, but they have been comparatively small.

Q. I will not bother you about that. I want to get the Government impost?—A. Yes.

Q. Then we have the transfer from Aronovici to the company, which you formed?—A. Yes.

Q. What were the fees then?—A. That has been paid since I left France, Sir Henry (Drayton).

Q. Have you not been able to verify that?—A. I think it would run about 1½ per cent—between 1 per cent and 1½ per cent.

Q. Between 1 per cent and 1½ per cent?—A. Yes.

*By Hon. Mr. Graham:*

Q. In transferring the property from Aronovici to the new company you transferred the stock instead of the property direct? Aronovici had been formed into the joint stock company, and made the transfer in stock?—A. Yes. I explained that the other day.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. For that reason the full 12 per cent had not been paid?—A. Yes.

Q. But there was a certain percentage which had to be paid?—A. Yes.

Q. I am trying to get that definitely.—A. That has been paid since I left, but the idea was to get away from the 12 per cent Government tax, and we formed Aronovici into a company of 30,000,000 francs, and immediately transferred his shares to the new company which was formed.

Q. What I want to do is to find out, if possible, just exactly what that cost is to the country?—A. It was a regular company. I was looking to see if that was set out in the arrangements, but it is not.

Q. I am not sure whether you said this or not, so do not pay any attention to what I say excepting for the purpose of refreshing your own memory, but I think you said during one of the sessions of the Committee that by doing it in this way you reduced the fee to one-third or one-quarter?—A. I have a hazy recollection of a 1 per cent or a 1½ per cent charge. I know they were reduced materially. I cannot give you the exact figures. I am only guessing. That has all been paid since I left.

Q. I wonder if we cannot ascertain these facts?—A. I can have a cable sent for them.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It seems to me we should know what the charges are.

The CHAIRMAN: I think, Sir Henry (Thornton) can give you that.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Go ahead, Sir Henry.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I cannot give it to you to-day, but I can to-morrow.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Supposing we let this matter stand until we can get that because I want to get the final result from the mortgage. Could we go on with the estimates now?

The CHAIRMAN: Are you finished?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No. I want to get that information. I do not know what effect it will take, but I want to follow up all the different reasons for the different shiftings of ground. They may be perfectly all right, or perfectly all