

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 32,

THURSDAY, April 19, 1906.

The Select Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Public Accounts met this day at 10.30 o'clock, a.m., Mr. Belcourt in the Chair, and proceeded to the further consideration of the accounts of the North Atlantic Trading Company, as set out at L-26 of the Report of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905.

Mr. FOSTER.—At the last meeting of the committee a cablegram was ordered to be sent to Lord Strathcona asking for certain information respecting the North Atlantic Trading Company. Has that telegram been sent, and if so, what answer has been received?

The CLERK.—On the 6th of April I sent the following letter:—

‘W. W. CORY, Esq.,

‘SIR,—I have the honour of informing you that at a meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts, held this morning in their room in the House of Commons, the following order of the committee was adopted: “That the Department of the Interior be ordered, by the Public Accounts Committee, to cable to Lord Strathcona, in London, England, to ascertain who are the agents composing the company called the North Atlantic Trading Company, if they are a body corporate, where incorporated, where is their place of business, and who are their officers, and to please answer immediately.”

‘Your obedient servant,

‘THOMAS S. HOWE.’

Mr. W. W. CORY, Deputy Minister of Interior, was recalled.

By Mr. Foster:

Q. Have the wires been working since the 6th of April?

A. Yes, sir, I think so.

Q. What success have you had in getting an answer?

A. Well, I received a notice which Mr. Howe has just read and I sent the following cable on the same day:

‘OTTAWA, April 7, 1906.

‘Dominion,

‘London, England.

‘This department has been ordered by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons to cable you the following: “To ascertain who are the gentlemen composing the company called the North Atlantic Trading Company, if they are a body corporate, where incorporated, where is their place of business and who are their officers, and to please answer immediately.”

‘(Sgd.) P. G. KEYES,

‘Secretary, Dept. of Interior.’

I had acknowledgment of that as follows:

‘Cable 7th received Sunday. Information so far as ascertainable will be cabled to-morrow.

‘(Sgd.) STRATHCONA.’

Mr. W. W. CORY.