

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. We are not getting a sufficient number of copies, and I think each member of the Committee should have a copy. Would this be worth while? Possibly there is a good deal of evidence that is not as important as other parts. Would it be worth while to appoint a small committee to review the evidence, pick out what we want, and have it reproduced?

Hon Mr. GRAHAM: For all the difference in it, I think it would be better for the members to have a complete copy, in making our report to the House. Surely to Heaven we have some device in this building by which we can produce copies of this.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: We can do it, if you want it, by having our machine sent down from Montreal.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a good idea, so, Sir Henry, if you will have that machine sent down, we will proceed that way

Sir HENRY THORNTON, recalled

The CHAIRMAN: Gentleman, I think we have practically completed the consideration of the West Indian end of the business, excepting that I believe Mr. Mackinnon has a question or two he wants to ask.

Mr. MACKINNON: There is just one remark I would like to make. I believe in getting these new steamers, if possible, on that trade, but my impression was that the United States had control of the products there, and it did not look as if we would be justified in putting on additional equipment. So I would like to ask Sir Henry Thornton about the exports from Canada to the West Indies. That was not taken into consideration until yesterday. Also, if his answer is, "Yes, we have no bananas" what other products have we that we can handle, sugar, molasses, fruit of different kinds—

Mr. KYTE: Rum?

Mr. MACKINNON: The impression which the Committee got yesterday was that bananas were the main thing, but that that business had received a black eye because United States were growing the fruit and handling it themselves.

The WITNESS: I think perhaps there may have been a wrong impression given as a result of the discussion yesterday. It was pointed out as a warning, I understand, that we might possibly find that the bananas and other fruits, and things of that sort, which would constitute the northbound cargoes, were so much in the hands of our steamship competitors, notably, the United Fruit Company, that even if we went to the expense of putting on our ships, and building new ships, we might find ourselves pushed out of the market for the reasons I have just given. I do not understand that that was a positive assertion of fact, but it was a point to which Sir Henry Drayton called attention, as I remember it, and one which we should carefully consider before there was any commitment, and my reply to that, as it would be also to your question, Mr. Mackinnon, is that we have a responsible officer in the West Indies investigating that and various other things, with a view of getting first-hand information on the ground, with respect to this prospective business, before we commit anyone, or anyone is committed to any large capital investment. The question was raised, with respect to the possibilities of northbound cargoes, such as bananas, fruits, and so on, being in the hands of the United Fruit Company, or other competitors, and we might find ourselves going into a business with the ground cut from under us. I said, Sir Henry, that you did not make that as a positive assertion, but gave that as a warning, and as a thing which ought to be carefully investigated before any investment was made. Did I get the right slant on it?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Quite right.

The WITNESS: So that is being gone into before anything definite is done.

[Sir Henry Thornton.]