

APPENDIX No. 3

Q. Do you know anything about this North Atlantic Trading Company?

A. Not that I know of, except what information I gathered from the papers passing through the office and from the newspapers.

Q. Just tell us shortly from the papers passing through your office who they are and what they are?

A. You have asked me a question which I can not answer.

Q. You have told us what you gathered from the papers going through the office — what did you gather from the papers going through the office as to who forms this company, what the company does and all about it?

A. It is the North Atlantic Trading Company and a man named A. E. Cohen signs as cashier, and they seem to deposit, or to cash their cheques, in the German Bank in Amsterdam. Somebody who can read German could translate perhaps.

Q. That is as far as you know?

A. That is as far as I know.

Q. Have there never been any inquiries in the four or five years this has been going on, have there been no inquiries at all as to who these people are that are receiving these large sums, and that agreed to spend \$15,000 a year?

A. I have made inquiries, but the information gained has been very small.

Q. Where did you make inquiry?

A. In many places, on the street, in the office, usually wherever I ran across anybody that was likely to know and, it occurred to me, I asked some leading questions.

Q. I can imagine you would go up and down the streets of Ottawa and never hear much about it. Did you ever make any inquiry to know whether there is a corporation of that name, or whether it is all fictitious?

A. I do not think it possible for me to make that inquiry here.

Q. You never did make any real inquiry?

A. No.

Q. Do the cheques come back to your office?

A. Yes.

Q. I suppose you always examine those cheques when they come back?

A. Yes.

Q. Invariably, do you?

A. Well—

Q. Somebody in the department?

A. Somebody in the department does.

Q. To see how they have been cashed?

Q. By whom cashed.

Q. Who has endorsed them and all that?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see by any cheque that came back how this money was disposed of or the cheque cashed?

A. That is what I referred to.

Q. There are only a couple of them here. Have you at any time seen any cheque endorsed to any person at all, to any individual?

A. No.

Q. You never did, nor to any firm?

A. No. Many of these cheques are made out in favour of the Bank of Montreal to obtain bills of exchange.

Q. I mean those that go direct to Amsterdam. Did you ever get anything back in the department indicating that a cheque went otherwise than to the company, and only to the company?

A. No.

Q. You did not?

Q. They are endorsed by the company and as far as the information on the back of the cheque is concerned, they may have been cashed or they may have been placed to the credit of the company.