

Mr. Bristow was also examined as to the faith of the company. He stated that soon after he came into the Treasury Department his attention was called to certain newspaper charges against the good faith of the Alaska Commercial Company in their performance of their contract with the Government; that he sent Mr. J. S. Moore, of New York, a special agent to San Francisco, with instructions to "look into this contract and the manner of its execution, both to examine the custom-house entries, and to examine also, if he could get access to them, the books of the company, and compare them, to ascertain whether there were any discrepancies; in other words, to supplement, by an inquiry there, the information he had from the islands direct."

With reference to the charges which had been made against the company which had caused his suspicions and the sending of Mr. Moore to San Francisco, he further stated: "I have not been able to discover any responsible person who is willing even to father the charges that are made. When it came to my knowledge that the company was making a very large profit out of the matter, I felt that the Government was not getting as much as it ought to have, *and I wanted to find some way of getting a share of the profits for the Government; but I found myself confronted with the law and this contract, and I saw no reason to believe that the company were not carrying out their contract in good faith, whatever may be the suspicions by which they were surrounded.*" It would seem, therefore, that, with this disposition upon the part of Mr. Bristow, if there had been any omissions on the part of the company, or any violation of the spirit and letter of the law upon their part, he would have availed himself of his power to abrogate it altogether and to declare it void.