The Queen. I feel so; that they should be permanently banished, and their children.

Mr. Willis. The present Provisional Government while in existence has created certain obligations. Would you consent that all such obligations assumed in the proper course of administration should be assumed and paid by you?

Mr. Carter. May I make it clearer? The minister wishes to know if the obligations the Provisional Government has entered into under the law, you would be willing that your Government should assume and be responsible for those obligations.

The Queen. Yes.

Mr. Carter. I want to make matters clear. I think they have been careful as a rule to observe statutory provisions, but there have been exigencies that demanded actions that are entirely outside statutory provisions—appropriations made, money expended. The question is, how far the new Government should be responsible for such acts.

Mr. Willis. That is the question to which I desire an answer. Whether, in the exercise of their discretion, they have even adopted measures that may not be strictly conformable to the statutory law of the land, but if the money has been expended for the benefit of the people in the matter of roads or in any other way, and not put into their private pockets. If these expenditures have been of a public character, and there is no charge of corruption, would they be recognized, whether strictly in conformity with the statutory law or not?

The Queen. I think such expenditures are legal. I would recognize them.

Mr. Carter. There has been a very heavy expenditure for military.

Mr. Willis. That is a question I wish explicitly answered. Grant that there has been; would you or would you not consider that an expenditure in the proper course of administration?

The Queen. I have thought the matter over; but I felt that the confiscation of the properties belonging to those parties would cover.

Mr. Carter. You believe that persons should be held in their estates liable for such matters—military, police, and other expenditures of like nature?

The Queen. I do.

Mr. Carter. I want to say a word. I have never said one word to Her Majesty on the subject. These questions are entirely new to me.

Mr. Willis. It is entirely proper for you to ask such questions as you have. Any question that brings out the exact views of Her Majesty is entirely proper. I understand [speaking to the Queen] then, in answer to the last question, that you would be willing to give an unqualified agreement that all obligations created by the Provisional Government in the ordinary course of administration should be assumed, but that as to the expenditure for police and military defense you would leave the cost of that to be met out of property confiscated from those who were engaged in the revolution? Is that right?

The Queen. Yes.

Mr. Willis. I understand from you that you would be unwilling to give a pledge that would absolutely prevent the adoption of any measure of proscription or punishment for what has been done in the past, as to those setting up and supporting the Provisional Government. I understand you to be unwilling to give such a pledge?

The Queen. I do not understand.

Mr. Willis. I understand from the fact that you have affirmed our previous conversation, and from your conversation to-day, that you would not be willing to grant absolute amnesty both as to persons and property to those who have either supported or who have aided in setting up the Provisional Government. That you feel you could not do it?

The Queen. I feel I could not do it for the safety of our subjects.

Mr. Carter. That is, that the continued presence of these people is a continued menace?

Mr. Willis. Do you adopt Mr. Carter's words?

The Queen. I do.

Mr. Carter. I would like to make one remark here. Do I understand your Majesty that this matter is one that you may personally decide—that it is not one that you can commit to the ministers that you may appoint?

Mr. Willis. I am not instructed to ask such views. It is the views of the Queen herself I wish to ascertain. I have asked you to come here so that there can be no mistake in the matter. I am authorized, directly instructed and absolutely required to know three things—two of which I have asked, and I am now about to ask the third. It is this: Whether in the event of a restoration it would be a restoration under the existing constitution of the country or under a different constitution?

The Queen. I believe it would be better to have a government under a new constitution that would be more suited to the present times and to the future. May I add—