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## Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd., Proprietors.

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Thursday, February 7, 1924.

## Happy Erin a Pattern for Us.

We hear but little of the progress of events in Ireland in these days, but the saying that no news is good news is particularly applicable to present affairs in that country. Two years have elapsed since that memorable session, the shortest within modern times, when the Act of Settlement was ratified by overwhelming majorities both in the Lords and Commons, and was assented to by His Majesty the King. In the Speech from the Throne the hope was expressed that "the strife of centuries may be ended, and that Ireland, as a free partner in the Commonwealth of Nations forming the British Empire, will secure the fulfilment of her national ideals."

The King's wish, so briefly stated but so admirably expressed, seems already to have become a reality. Under the capable direction of President Cosgrove, law and order have been restored; the bitter feuds have been stamped out, or for lack of incentive have died down; persistent malcontents have been summarily disposed of, or shown that their presence in the country was undesirable; and the establishment of peace and prosperity which has so quickly followed the period of strife has given the world something to wonder at and to admire.

Recently we heard of the success with which the First Free State Loan was floated. Six months ago, twelve thousand agitators were confined in prison cells. Ten thousand have since been released, and there has been no recurrence of disorder. It is true that the police authorities have been busy suppressing crime, but that is not surprising, when it is recalled how many of the criminal class flocked to Ireland from all parts of the globe when the country appeared to be a happy hunting ground for men of that type.

Her Government, established, authority restored, and the loan successfully marketed, the Free State at once turned its attention to the building up of her industries and to the enforcement of rigid economy. The cost of the army which was hitherto £10,000,000 a year, has been reduced to £2,000,000. The unemployment dole has been abolished, because, and perhaps in consequence, the number who are out of work are not more than 30,000. Previously it cost 8d. in the pound to collect the rates; now it costs 3d. These are but a few of the many rigorous measures that have been taken, but they are sufficient to indicate that the Free State is in earnest in proving to the world that the confidence of the British Government has not been misplaced, and that she is capable of setting her house in order effectively and with dispatch.

We people in Newfoundland have close associations with the country which for so long was looked upon as the land of discontent. There are few of us who do not claim to be related

either immediately or in the dim and distant past, to Irish stock. Their peculiarities, their many excellent traits of character, and even their accent are noticeable in many parts of the island and particularly in the vicinity of St. John's. May we not then take to heart the example that Ireland, the youngest of the Empire nations, is setting, and with determination to forego the old order, to set our faces against further extravagance, to stop the leaks in the Ship of State, and to resolve that we shall turn the talents that we possess to profitable account? We can if we will.

One other example Ireland is setting us, and if wise counsel prevails, success will follow the undertaking. The North and South are meeting to define their boundaries. It is not perhaps probable, but it may possibly happen that, with the heat of passion cooled from their blood, it will dawn on them that it would be better by far to wipe out the boundaries altogether rather than build them up. Our greatest scourge has been, and is the bitter animosity which degrades our political differences and which is permitted to enter even into our private life. It is a blight, it is antiquated, and it makes us a laughing-stock for the outside countries. Might we not also define the boundaries within which our political differences should be confined, and beyond which trespassing will not be tolerated under any conditions? Public opinion can do that, if it will.

## Tragic Fatality of Methodist Minister

Yesterday, at the moment of going to press, we received the brief message which told the story of the tragic fatality of another Newfoundland Minister, Rev. William Seeley, M.A., who met with death in the performance of his duty.

It appears that having officiated at Seldom Come By on Sunday, he decided to take a walk to the mill and to return on foot over the ten miles of country that separated him from his home and family in Fogo. Despite his splendid physique and his long experience of our winter storms, he was overcome when but a mile of his objective to gain which he had made such a gallant dash. Mr. Seeley entered the Methodist Ministry in 1911 and after completing a Theological Course at Mount Allison, he returned to Newfoundland and volunteered for service on the Labrador. For seven years he ministered to the needs of the people in the Hamilton Inlet Mission, where by his self sacrifice and devotion to duty he earned the love and respect of all. During a visit to his parents in Alberta he met, and later married, Miss Lorgier, of Nova Scotia. On his appointment to the Fogo Circuit a year and a half ago, they took up their residence in his new sphere of work. There as in his former Mission, he was zealous in furthering the work of his Church and he found ready a devoted partner in his young wife. The sympathy of the community will go out to the widow and the young son who have been so suddenly bereaved and under such tragic circumstances.

**THE DANCE OF THE SEASON.**—Don't miss this Dance on Tuesday night next, February 12th, at the "Gaiety" (formerly C.C.C. Hall). Hear the Mount Cashel Band in all the best Dance hits. They are wonderful. Tickets: Ladies' 70c., Gent's \$1.00; Double \$1.50.—Feb. 21, 22, 23.

## Supreme Court.

(Before the Chief Justice.)  
In matter of the petition of Charles F. Bishop of Burin, Merchant, (trading under the firm of C. F. Bishop, and Arthur C. Peters of St. John's, accountant as trustee of the estate of the said firm, alleging that the said firm is insolvent, prays that they may be so declared. Adjourned hearing.

Mr. Hunt for petitioner asks leave to amend petition by omitting Arthur C. Peters of St. John's, and it is ordered that the amendment be allowed. Charles F. Bishop, sworn and examined by Mr. Hunt. It is ordered that the petition of Charles F. Bishop be declared insolvent, that Arthur C. Peters be trustee and that petitioner's cost be allowed.

## Personal.

Mrs. David Delahanty and her daughter, Marie, arrived by S.S. Dixie this morning after a vacation of four months with her daughter Mrs. C. J. A. O'Brien, Brookline, Mass.

## Star Accounts Examined This Morning

Messrs Keen, Rowsell, and Fraser, on the Stand—Mr. Meaney's Statement Made.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF SIR R. A. SQUIRES CONCLUDED.

Wednesday morning when the Enquiry resumed Mr. Angus McDonald was called to the witness stand. Examined by Mr. Winter the witness said he was Superintendent of Mines, Wabana. In 1920 he was Manager with the D.L.E.C. Co. Jas. Miller was then accountant with the Company. He made the acquaintance of Sir Richard Squires about June, 1920 being introduced by Mr. Miller. He came to St. John's at the time the directors were here at the request of Mr. Gillis. Asked if he recalled the circumstances under which he signed a \$20,000 note in conjunction with Mr. Miller, the witness said Miller approached him and asked him to sign a note for Sir Richard Squires who had to meet an overdraft. He asked Miller what security there was, Miller told him Sir Richard had given him a mortgage on the Daily Star plant valued at \$120,000. He never asked Miller to show him the mortgage. The witness said he first signed a 30 days' note and afterwards a 60 days' note. There was no Company stamp on the note when he signed it. Asked to explain why the word Manager appeared after his signature the witness said that it was put there to distinguish him from others of a similar name who were residents of the island. He did not think at the time that the word Manager would have the effect of associating the Company with the transaction. He thought that the bank should not have taken the note as a Company obligation. The Company stamp was not on the note when he signed it. When the bank sent notice of expiry addressed to the Company he thought it strange as he had regarded the matter as a personal obligation. He then told Gillis of the matter and asked him to arrange with Wolvin for its extension until Sir Richard should return. He heard nothing further of the note until December, when Miller told him it was picked up, and he understood that it was by Sir Richard. The witness said he wrote "Manager" at Miller's request. The auditors never asked him anything about it. There was no cross-examination.

Sir Richard Squires was called and his cross-examination was resumed by the Attorney General. Asked if Miss Miller had deposited \$5,000 in August to the credit of the Trust Account without authority, Sir Richard said he had no knowledge of the deposit until a few days ago, in reply to the Commissioner Sir Richard said he made no distinction between payments made to himself and a payment to the Star, and likewise between a payment to himself and one for campaign funds. The ultimate result was the same, he said.

The Attorney General referring to Sir Richard's evidence on the previous day that the Star \$46,000 was a voucher confronted him with his evidence during the examination in chief, when he said "My recollection is that a cheque for \$46,000 was given by the Daily Star to Miller covering the amounts which Miller said he had advanced." Sir Richard said the statements were reconcilable. The whole idea was to give a voucher. COMMISSIONER—You think they are consistent?

A.—They fit with the actual facts as far as I can recollect. I am speaking of some time back and I am telling my recollection.

COMMISSIONER—That will not prevent you from telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth. When Sir Richard was questioned about the evidence given by Mr. Meaney that they had discussed a note in Montreal, obtaining \$100,000, he said they had no discussion on financial matters. He regarded Meaney's evidence on this score as absurd and possibly resulting from a disordered imagination. Reference was made to the code message sent by Miss Miller from Bell Island, and Sir Richard was asked why she went to the trouble of preparing a special code when her apparent business was only that of communicating about insurance premiums. To this he replied that her reason for the action did not bother him, who probably thought it desirable. Quite a number of questions were put to the witness as to the various references in the messages after which Sir Richard was asked to identify a letter from Mr. Meaney as follows:—

Department of Controller, St. John's, Nfld., January 6th, 1922.  
Sir R. A. Squires, R.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, City.

Dear Sir—I beg to apply for two or three weeks leave of absence, commencing on Friday this week. Will you please advise me if it is possible. Mr. Grant, our foreman, will be

in charge of the department during my absence.  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) J. T. MEANEY.  
Commissioner reads letter of January 10th from the Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. H. Meaney. Sir—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 8th instant asking for three weeks leave of absence, commencing on Friday, 19th instant. I have the honour to inform you that this has been granted.  
I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) ARTHUR MEWES, Deputy Colonial Secretary.

The witness said Meaney got leave and it probably was in reference to a letter of Dec. 19th from Mr. McDougall. Sir Richard said that after Meaney went to Montreal he met him and Miller at the Ritz Carlton. They had some conversations, and Meaney after a discussion on the political situation told him that he had seen McDougall and understood from him that the Company was prepared to make a contribution to the 1922 election campaign funds.

Asked by the Commissioner what he said to the idea, Sir Richard replied that he said nothing; he neither accepted or rejected the idea.

COMMISSIONER—Did you tell him to stop such intrigues?  
A.—I told him to let the matter stand. I did not want him to have anything to do with it. Sir Richard then explained that he went to Mr. Wolvin and told him that neither Meaney or Miller had authority to negotiate on his behalf, and this conversation resulted in the auditors being sent down. Sir Richard was then asked to give his version of what transpired at the interview which he and Meaney had at Dr. Campbell's house in reference to the visit of the auditors. After Sir Richard had told his story, the Commissioner pointed out that his version was entirely different from that given by Meaney. He could not understand why Mr. Meaney was not cross-examined on the matter.

MR. LEWIS made an explanation that the American system of examining witnesses was not similar to the practice here, and he assumed responsibility for the omission.

THE COMMISSIONER said he would take the explanation into consideration when weighing both versions, after which adjournment was taken.

**AFTERNOON SESSION YESTERDAY.**  
When the Enquiry opened in the afternoon, Sir Richard Squires again went into the witness box, and was questioned by the Attorney General concerning what occurred at his interview with Mr. Rempton of the Steel Company, at the time the latter was in St. John's with Mr. Tammam, investigating the accounts at Wabana. The examination on this point was very detailed, and occupied considerable time.

Passing from this, the Attorney General referred to the interviews which had taken place between Mr. Curtis and Mr. Miller.

Q.—What did you say to Curtis about communicating with Miller?  
A.—I told him so far as I can remember, that he had no authority to do so at all.

To further questions, witness said that Curtis had told him of an interview he had had with Miller and was asked by witness to make a note of it.

Q.—Why did you tell him to make a note of what Miller had said to him?  
A.—As a matter of business.

Q.—Have you read the evidence of Mr. Curtis?  
A.—Portions of it.

COMMISSIONER—When did you read these notes?  
A.—He handed them to me when I was busy so I put them in my pocket and read them when I got home.  
Q.—Does it not strike you that it was a very unusual conversation?  
A.—Yes.  
Q.—And a very improper one?  
A.—Yes.  
Q.—If you thought it improper, what steps did you take to prevent a repetition of it?  
A.—No steps beyond telling Curtis when I saw him soon afterwards that he had no authority whatsoever to deal with Miller on his own account.  
Q.—Did you tell him not to deal with Miller on his own account?  
A.—No.  
Asked by the Attorney General what interest the statement Miller had prepared for the Crown had in Sir Richard's recollection that these were two allies to the Enquiry, and that there were palpable intrusions in the name Sir Richard said he did not think it improper to read the brief of evidence. He did not know if he told

Curtis what the correct facts were. Asked if it did not occur to him that the telegram of October suggested that Miller and Meaney were prepared for a consideration to water-down their evidence, the witness told the Commissioner that it might occur to him that they would do it for a consideration.

COMMISSIONER—Then, I think, this telegram makes an extraordinary difference seeing that you permitted the alteration of the evidence to be made in your office. I don't consider it a savory incident.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, then referred to the period previous to Sir Richard's resignation, when the charges were discussed.

Sir Richard admitted that the \$46,000 transaction was discussed, and that the Attorney General brought the matter up. Asked what explanation he made, Sir Richard said he told the Attorney General that the Company helped out the Star. He denied that the Attorney General asked him if the affair went on whilst they (the Government) were negotiating new contracts. He also denied that the Attorney General had said to him what a blow it would be to the party if it was known.

THE COMMISSIONER on asking Sir Richard if he was prepared to swear that such conversation did not take place was met by the answer: "The statements are made on conditions as far as my mind goes."

THE COMMISSIONER remarked that the next phase broke the monopoly of "I don't remember" and he would make a note of it for future use.

Sir Richard told the Commissioner that he remembered Mr. Warren saying the Star was a party paper and should not be so financed.

COMMISSIONER—Do you think a party paper should be financed by the Steel or Nova Scotia Companies when they were under obligations to the Government?  
A.—No objection whatever in my mind; these companies have subscriptions that were used to finance a paper, and I must say that if ever Newfoundland conditions party subscriptions could not be secured from Companies, Corporations, Firms and individuals who are under obligation to the Newfoundland Government there can be no party newspaper and no elections held.

COMMISSIONER—Perhaps the Company would be no worse off if there were none?

A.—That may be true. COMMISSIONER—All I have to say after that is that the Star loses me quite cold.

MR. LEWIS followed by a short re-examination, and then the witness was asked to go to the witness stand. The Attorney General referred to the current account from July to December, 1922, the "Cheque" Trust Account from June, 1921, to December, 1922, and R. A. Squires' collection 1920-21 were put in evidence. Asked to the condition of the R. A. Squires' Trust Account on August 25th when \$5,000 was deposited, the witness said that the account was not in credit until December, 1922, when the Daily Star account was closed out.

December, 1922, and no such account has been opened since. The witness then explained the system of receiving cheques having reference to the Star \$46,000. Asked why the cheques had been stamped "paid" and the cancelled "Spaid in error," the witness said it was evidently the careless error of a teller.

THE COMMISSIONER announced that he would be prepared in a short time to hear Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Meaney and Sir Richard in answer to the charges under paragraph 1.

Adjournment was taken at 5.15.

## THIS MORNING'S SESSION.

When the Enquiry opened this morning, MR. KEAN liquidator of the Daily Star was called and examined by Mr. Warren. He wanted to know what amounts were passed from Sir Richard to the Star from 1920-21 and 22, and also what were the assets when the Star went into liquidation. Witness said the plant sold for \$6,500 and it was bought by Sir Richard Squires. Paper and other material including book debts and plant realised a total of \$10,000. The greater portion of the proceeds went in costs, questioned about the minute book of the Star Publishing Company, he said there was one but he never saw it. The three shareholders were Dr. Moffatt, Baxter Parsons and Dr. Thistle. Asked if he had been paid the \$5,000 for the plant, the witness said no. The creditors of the Star were bought up by Sir Richard. They proved for \$19,000. Sir Richard proved according to the book for \$128,000. Sir Richard is now sole creditor for the \$160,000 liabilities. There were deferred creditors for \$800 who were settled with. The Star books for 1922, the witness said, were poorly kept and did not show accurately the amounts paid in by Sir Richard or his firm. Mr. Keen was not employed on the Star during this period. The cash book for 1920 was submitted to the Commissioner for examination. A ledger of the same period was examined and nothing was discovered to show that moneys had been received from Sir Richard or his firm from Feb. 28th, 1922 to April 1922. The cash book kept by Sir Keen beginning April was next examined. It showed that the following

amounts had been paid by Sir Richard:—  
April 30th, \$12,000; May 31st, \$5,500; June 30th, \$2,500; July 31st, \$2,000; August, no payment; September, no payment; October, no payment; Nov. 15th, \$5,125.00; Nov. 30th, \$200; Dec. 31st, \$200. Total, \$27,325.

There was no entry of payment Nov. 22nd. The witness said that the money he got to pay wages came from general sources. In one instance he had to get accommodation for \$1,100 from Sir Richard which was returned. He never got money from Miss Miller to pay wages. The 1920 cash was again examined re R. A. Squires' loan, and it showed that during August, 1920 \$4,881 had been deposited by Miss Miller re adjustment of "debit."

The Commissioner remarked that it looked as if the Star was getting some money from Miss Miller. About \$2,000 apparently represented disbursements for the renewals of notes. There was no cross-examination.

MR. S. ROWSELL ON THE STAND.  
MR. S. ROWSELL, assistant accountant Bank Nova Scotia was called and examined by Mr. Howley touching system of delivering verification slips which the Bank kept upon returning cheques to customers. A verification slip ending Dec. 31st, 1920 was put in evidence. The account was in debit \$4,311.23 at that time. To the Attorney General he said he made the records in the Bank of Collateral security. The witness was asked to show what security was in the bank covering an overdraft of Sir Richard Squires to the amount of \$10,000 on July 31st, 1920. Mr. Rowsell was then relieved to comply with the request.

MR. FRASER (Examined).  
Mr. Fraser, of Squires & Curtis office was next called and examined by Mr. Howley. Touching period in 1920 when he took up the matter of fixing the books he found that at that time, according to the accounts, there should be over \$500 on hand. There ought to have been in the first of June 1921 the sum of \$11,722 in the cash box. On Nov. 15th the cash balance, according to the books, should have been \$6,204.74 at the close and at commencement \$6,174.30.

There was no entry of \$1,000 being received on this date. The last date on which Miss Miller entered her balance March 12th, 1920 there was a debit of \$19.31 cents.

Asked to look up March 21st, the witness said the condition of the cash on that date was, according to the books, \$6,660.49 on hand. For March 19th, \$6,758.74 appeared to be on hand.

COMMISSIONER—Do I understand that if the books are accurate, there ought to be a substantial balance at the end of 1920?  
The witness replied that as far as he could make out there was substantial cash balances shown at the end of each month.

The Commissioner remarked that he appeared to be a fairly prosperous business.

Questioned about the cheque stubs the witness did not understand, according to previous testimony, the witness said they numbered 58. Five of the stubs were blank, 54 only recorded the amount paid. One had nothing but payers names. These stubs which had amounts, totalled \$47,569.01. A number of the cheques, amounting to \$30,959.58, had not been presented. The cheques that had been presented and paid and of which he could not find information aggregated \$4,187.44.

The witness produced some of the cheques of September and October, 1920 returned by the bank. Questioned about insurance, the witness said that according to the books the D. L. & S. Co. insurance premiums due in June 1920 amounting to \$2,313 were outstanding in 1921. There was a premium October, 1921 amounting to \$2,722.00 that had never passed through the books. Asked about August, 1921 the witness said the premiums had all been paid on June 21st.

Asked if there were any premiums made in August 1921, the witness said there were none. (Sir Richard said in his evidence that there were some expected at that time.) The new business, the witness said, was written in October, but the premiums were not paid until a long time after. Witness had no knowledge of the \$5,000 other than that the account was put in credit.

MR. WINTER—Was that deposited in the trust account?  
A.—Yes.

Asked to what person he credited the payment of the \$5,000, the witness gave various answers which the Commissioner said were not satisfactory.

After June 30th, 1920, said witness, the cash book had been written up by Miss Reader and not by Miss Miller.

The examination of Mr. Fraser was interrupted by Mr. Rowsell of the Bank of Nova Scotia returned with a certificate showing the securities held by the Bank for Sir Richard Squires amounting to \$12,000 in Government Bonds and Debentures.

The examination of Fraser was then continued by the Attorney General. Asked if there were a demand upon the firm on account of the estate which witness said it was as Twyden estate, witness said it was as Twyden estate and been taken in his own name, but the accounts had not been settled up. The money had been paid, witness thought, by Sir Richard Squires. It was a large amount, but he could not tell how much exactly. It



## Mr. Wholesale Buyer!

We have just received another car-load of SUGAR and BUTTER DISHES, NAPPIES, PRESERVE SETS, TUMBLERS, and MIXING BOWLS.

In this lot we have a number of barrels containing small assortments of the above, nine and ten different kinds of dishes to the barrel. These we quote at very low prices.

MAY WE SEND YOU A SAMPLE BARREL!

Say \$15.00 or \$16.30.

WRITE US FOR DESCRIPTIVE CIRCULAR.

The ROYAL STORES, Ltd.

Care 21, N. St.

Ask all about him at the following Hardware Stores, East to West:

Job's Stores, Ltd., Martin-Royal Stores, Ltd., W. J. Clouston, Ltd., G. Knowling, Ltd., Ayre & Sons, Ltd., Bowring Bros., Ltd.

FOR THE 14th.

## VALENTINES

We have just a few of our large stock left for you to select from

Prices from 1 to 40c. each

We can also supply to the trade comic Valentines AT LOWEST PRICES

S. E. GARLAND

Leading Bookseller & Stationer, 177-9 Water Street, N.W. 1st

was paid to Sir Roger Twyden himself who was here at the time.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—How was it paid?

A.—I have the records here.

MR. HOWLEY—I object. It is contemptible to try into this matter.

COMMISSIONER—Don't put a k e speeches, please, but state your objection.

MR. HOWLEY—It is impertinent to this Enquiry.

The COMMISSIONER did not sustain the objection.

MR. FRASER—There was a cheque issued on the R. A. Squires account, but no entry was made in the cash book as a matter of record. The date of the entry in the cash book is June 22nd, 1921.

With the conclusion of Mr. Fraser's evidence, the first section of the Enquiry concluded. The second section will conclude to-morrow with Mr. McNamee's evidence.

MR. MEANEY ADDRESSES THE COMMISSIONER.

The COMMISSIONER said that as the Enquiry involved in the first paragraph of the Enquiry were Mr. Fraser, Miss Miller and Sir Richard Squires, he would permit them to address him, if they wished to do so.

Accepting the Commissioner's invitation to offer any observations on the matters that affected him, Mr. Meaney addressed the Court. He did not know if he could offer any comment on the evidence that would help more than the records that were before the Commissioner, and he did not propose to answer the evidence given by the opposite side, as he thought that he had told the truth to the best of his knowledge, the whole truth, and he had estimated nothing in his own favour nor set down aught in malice against Sir Richard Squires.

He was no judge of his own case, that was a matter for the Commissioner.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Society Protection of Animals  
GRENFIELD INSTITUTE (East Door)  
To-morrow Friday  
FEBRUARY 8th, 5.15 P.M.  
His Excellency the Governor will preside.  
Business: Annual Reports and short musical programme.  
All members and friends invited.  
W. J. BROWN, Hon. Sec.

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