STATEMENT BY MR. WILSON, K. C.

Explains the Transaction in Northwest Lands

BORROWED NO TRUST MONEYS

Nor Sought to Borrow Any—A Profitable Investment for the Union Trust Company.

Toronto, Oct. 7.—Mr. Matthew Wilson, K.C., at the insurance investigation yesterday, tendered a statement to the commission, which he said he would verify on oath, and upon which he offered to submit to examination. Mr. Shepley declined to allow Mr. Wilson's statement to go upon the record. Thereupon Mr. Wilson intimated that he would give his statement publicity. Mr. Wilson's statement is as follows:

According to my recollection the Chancellor was accurate when he said, "While I cannot recollect just the details, I may have said to Mr. Matthew Wilson in my interview with him that it was competent for this company (the Union Trust), and this syndicate to enter into this joint deal, and that there might be proper compensation made if the syndicate required that as a condition. They, being an independent concern and having it in hand, might say the terms on which they might come in; if it was satisfactory and acceptable to all parties concerned that might be carried out." That was, however, not the origin of the $95,000. The chancellor was, I think, equally correct when he said, "If the transaction had been understood by me that there was to be a sum of money paid to them, $95,000 or anything else, and they to put nothing in, then the transaction would have assumed a very different form." Neither he nor I ever understood or discussed this latter condition, and neither $95,000 nor any other sum either in money or stock was to be paid or given to the syndicate by the Trust Company nor was there any such gift.

The chancellor's advice applied to the following circumstances: A syndicate composed of Foster, McGillivray and myself bought one-half interest in 200,000 acres on a basis of $4 50 per acre, payable partly in cash and partly in stock. At the time of our agreeing to this purchase there was no thought or intention that the Union Trust Company should be financially interested. McGillivray said he would mortgage other property and pay his share, and Foster said he could finance his share except the first payment, and I agreed to meet his first payment as well as my own. The intention then was to put the property into a company on the basis of $5 per acre. The 50 cents per acre (to be paid not in cash, but stock), being the profit on the turnover, to be divided amongst the three of us. We were then to sell stock in the company and agreed for a prospectus to be prepared.

Considered It Valuable.

After the purchase of the half-interest in the 200,000 acres we procured an option to purchase on similar terms the larger part of the other half-interest. I believe that to be (as it has turned out to be), a valuable option, but I did not care to undertake more than my one-third of the half we had purchased. McGillivray and Foster proposed turning the latter option over to the Union Trust Company and giving the Union Trust Company the profits therefrom. I objected to having any bargaining with a company in which I was a director, but they considered that if we could turn a profitable transaction to any company we ought at least to offer it to the Union Trust Company. The matter was then discussed in detail at an informal meeting of the Union Trust Company board. Fifty cents per acre on the whole 200,000 acres represented $100,000, out of which our vendors were to receive $5,000 in stock, while on the prior purchase of the half-interest Foster, McGillivray and I were to receive one-half of the remaining $95,000 of stock, or $47,500 in stock, the other $47,500 being represented by the later option and the interests of the numerous other interested parties. It was found on calculation that this latter option covered one-fourth of the whole (representing one-quarter of the $95,000 stock profits, or 237 1-2 shares,) and in addition thereto one hundred and odd shares out of the remaining fourth. Consequently, turning this latter option to the Union Trust Company, without any profit whatever to us, would turn to the Union Trust Company the profits from these shares. It was never proposed or suggested that the Union Trust Company should have any of our first and separate purchase.

When this proposal was made I objected upon two grounds; firstly, the debatable propriety of dealing with a company of which I was a director, and, secondly, the Union Trust Company was requiring a higher rate of interest than otherwise I would have to pay on any money I might borrow. Finally I gave way on the latter point, Mr. McGillivray undertaking to use his utmost endeavors, which he was confident would be successful, to have the interest fixed at 4½ per cent, or 5 per cent at most, and the other question was left to the chancellor to say whether there was any impropriety in handing over to the Union Trust Company the latter option and the attendant profit stock of 237½ shares, and 100 shares, as before mentioned, and having the Union Trust Company make to the land company the total advances required for the company, which included perhaps a dozen shareholders besides ourselves, the trust company being secured by the whole assets and unpaid stock of the land company, and receiving a rate not to exceed 6 per cent on its advances.

Chancellor Boyd's Advice.

It was to that question, after discussing the matter in detail, that the chancellor gave to me and to the Union Trust Company the advice which he mentioned: "I may have said to Mr. Matthew Wilson in my interview with him that it was competent for this company (the trust company) and this syndicate to enter into this joint deal, and that there might be proper compensation made if the syndicate required that as a condition. They, being an independent concern, and having it in hand, might say the terms on which they might come in; if it was satisfactory and acceptable to all parties concerned that might be carried out."

The transaction was then carried out by a written agreement executed by both companies. The discussion of the matter extended over not only days but weeks, and the recorded minutes merely represent the conclusions as formally entered, and not the discussions, and no transaction was ever put through the Union Trust Company with more publicity, and there are but few transactions that could be more profitable to the Union Trust Company.

By the agreement the Union Trust Company was given the option to take stock in the land company for its advances, and on motion—I think it was Lieut.-Col. Davidson, on the suggestion of Mr. Stevenson—it elected to take stock. I entirely concurred in that motion.

Afterwards, on motion of Messrs. Stevenson and McGillivray, the position was changed and all the stock was given up and the Union Trust Company treated as a creditor and given a mortgage with 6 per cent from the inception of the advances. I was against this change, because, as I said, I thought (as now turns out) that the stock would be a valuable bonus to the Union Trust Company, but Mr. Stevenson persisted in his preference to give back the stock and take a mortgage for the advances, as he did not seem to place much value on the stock. I also pointed out that this made me bear higher interest than if my original intention had been carried out, and Mr. McGillivray vigorously pressed for a 5 per cent rate, as the I. O. F. had (he said) made loans as low as 4½ per cent. Mr. Stevenson was firm, and the interest was made 6 per cent yearly.

An advance of a million dollars at 6 per cent by the Union Trust Company when it pays 4 per cent for the money, represents a profit to the Union Trust Company of $20,000 per year, beside the profit which the trust company makes in the selling of the lands.

No One Suffered.

Of course, any stock subscribed for by any of us in the land company had to be paid for in cash. That did not apply to the 337½ shares which the Union Trust Company and its president received for its option (gotten from us) from the land company, nor to the 158 1-3 shares (being one-third of 475, as before mentioned), which Foster, McGillivray and I each received, nor to the shares which it was agreed that the others should receive, as set forth in the written agreement. But any additional shares had to be paid for in cash. Others, including the chancellor, took and paid for additional shares, and I bought and paid for many other shares which were outstanding.

I never received from the Union Trust Company a single share or a single dollar in the transaction, except when, on motion of Messrs. Stevenson and McGillivray, the Union Trust Company gave back to Foster, McGillivray and myself the 337½ shares (which we had given to the Union Trust Company, as I have heretofore mentioned) and took in preference the mortgage.

The return according to the agreement of the 337½ bonus shares was not done in haste or secrecy, nor was it done immediately after Mr. Stevenson's motion was passed, because the mortgage and agreement were first submitted to the different companies and approved and executed by them.

Had the Union Trust Company remained shareholders, it, with the other shareholders, would have participated in the general profits and losses; but the representatives of the I. O. F. in the Union Trust Company preferring to substitute a mortgage, it now gets its 6 per cent, in preference to the ultimate profit to the shareholders, including Foster, McGillivray and myself.

The details of the transaction are clearer in my recollection because of all my undertakings since I became a director of the Union Trust Company it is the first, last and only one in which that company was a party, and I am glad that in it no one suffers loss.

I was not a member of the executive of the Union Trust Company, but I, with the chancellor, formed the inspection committee, and all investments came under our notice.

I never borrowed or sought to borrow, or had occasion to borrow any money from the Union Trust Company or from the Independent Order of Foresters.

VALET POSED AS PRINCE

Ruler of Jodhpur Boy Struts in Masters' Raiment.

Bombay, Oct. 7.—How a maharajah's valet, masqueraded as his master is an amusing story of Indian life. The Maharajah of Jodhpur's "dressing boy" has just been arrested for impersonating his master in an impudent manner.

The valet, whose name is Sardarsing Mangolsing, dressed himself in the maharajah's picturesque raiment and copied on his own skin several marks which the potentate bore on his arms and neck. He then visited the neighboring state of Baroda, and driving to the bungalow of the Dewan of Baroda announced himself as the Maharajah of Jodhpur.

He was received with great ceremony and royally entertained. He explained that he had quarreled with his ministers, and had left Jodhpur in consequence.

All went well until the pretended maharajah met the Maharajah of Gwalior. That monarch was in Bombay, and the disguised valet unluckily expressed a wish to see him. A visit was at once arranged, but when the ruler of Gwalior saw Mangolsing he at once denounced him as an impostor. His arrest for impersonation followed immediately.

VICAR'S WORK MADE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL

Built Walls, Carved Cornices and Put Imprint of Art on Ugly Edifice.

London, Oct. 8.—Few clergymen can claim to have preached such enduring sermons as the Rev. F. W. Ragg, who has just resigned the incumbency of Marsworth, Bucks, after 26 years' labor in the parish.

He found the church fabric ugly and ruinous. He has restored and beautified it by the labor of his own hands, learning masonry for the purpose, and carving the stone in wondrous fashion by years of ceaseless toil, cheered and aided by his devoted wife, who also carved the rood and chancel screens in oak. An arcade which he designed and worked in the chancel wall gives a record in stone of all the vicars of the parish from the year 1215.

The western wall will be entirely rebuilt and raised, making a harmonious line of what formerly looked like a broken back, the chancel roof being high, while the nave dropped several feet between that and the tower.

Each corbel is carved with a different design deeply cut; this deep cutting is a feature of his work, and entailed much more labor than the mere surface work, and all this has been done without fee or reward beyond the knowledge and satisfaction that his work will endure.

Mrs. Ragg carved the oak screen from the vicar's designs, and she also assisted him in making the mosaics of the reredos. These mosaics were brought from Italy by Lady Marion Alford. Mr. Ragg resigned his charge, as he is no longer equal to the strain of parish work.

JURY ACQUITS MRS. BERTHA ELY

Verdict of Killing in Self Defense Returned in Less Than Four Minutes.

Detroit, Oct. 8.—Three months to a day after a single shot from Bertha Ely's revolver sent the wife of her employer into the next world and landed the little woman herself behind prison bars, a jury in Judge Connell's court put the seal of self-defense on the act with a verdict reached in less than four minutes.

It was on the night of July 6 that Mrs. Mary A. Kunna fell mortally wounded in the dingy little cabin of the schooner Herschel, tied up at the foot of Mount Elliott avenue.

It was on Oct. 6 that her slayer limped into the county jail, gathered together a few clothes and left for the home of a friend, legally guilty of no crime.

Mrs. Ely's acquittal was expected. That the charge of murder never could be sustained was manifest on the first day of the trial, when Capt. George M. Kunna testified. Logically Kunna was the strongest witness for the prosecution. He turned out to be the backbone of the defense.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Trevor saw his chances for a conviction rapidly failing as Kunna told his story. Mr. Trevor merely smiled at the rapidity with which the jury agreed. But one ballot was taken. Every one of the twelve jurors favored acquittal.

As Foreman M. C. Malloy announced the verdict an uproar rose in the court room. Handkerchiefs waved and the claping of hands brought Judpge Connolly's gavel down on his desk with repeated thuds to preserve order.

"Good for you," cried one of the spectators and the applause started up all over again.

Mrs. Ely meantime had given vent to a long, restful sigh and then turned to kiss the smiling face of her father.

"This court stands adjourned until Monday morning," said the judge.

In a twinkling Mrs. Ely's friends were swarming about. Women hugged and kissed her; men gripped her hand until it ached. Everyone was smiling.

Ten minutes later Mrs. Ely walked out of the municipal building to breathe free air for the first time in three months. Accompanied by Mrs. Ursula Hirons, of 44 Lawton avenue, she went across the street to the jail.

"I want to say good-bye to the people in here," she said; "they're been very kind to me."

So Mrs. Ely went the rounds, shaking hands with the matron and jailers and some of the women prisoners with whom she had become acquainted. Then she went to Mrs. Hiron's home, where she will spend a week or two.

The summing up was brief. Attorneys Clarence P. Milligan and E. G. McClemont argued for the defense, Mr. Travor for the prosecution. They reviewed the testimony and went over the occurrences directly before and after the killing of Mrs. Kunna.

The fight on the dock when Mrs. Kunna confronted her husband and Mrs. Ely and attacked the latter was dwelt on. With the prosecution it was a wife's protest against a husband's supposed perfidy.

From the defense's viewpoint it was a vicious attack from an unreasonably jealous woman. Then the dingy little cabin, stuffy and lighted only by an oil lamp, was pictured.

One side told of the wife's going aboard to further protests; the other said she was there to hurt the crippled cook.

It was 12:28 o'clock when the case finally went to the jury. It was 12:32 o'clock when the jury gave its verdict.

PICKING HOPS IS LATEST FAD

Society Women Seek "Rest" and Health in "Work" on Field.

London, Oct. 8.—Hopping "de luxe" is the newest form of rest cure for wearied society people.

At Bearsted, on the opposite side of Maidstone to East Farleigh, where the real poverty-stricken hoppers "struck" this week for better wages, a camp has been formed of hoppers "de luxe," whose manners and methods are as far as the poles asunder from those who "hop" because they must.

The luxurious society hoppers work in the field not for profit, but for their health's sake. They claim that a week's hopping is far better and more pleasant than a rest at Marienbad.

In a special inclosure these hoppers of leisure may be seen at work, apparently enjoying it. Their field is railed off from the ordinary hoppers, and they do not rise so early or work so late.

One party includes two young married society women, who look on the work as a "health cure." They intend to devote the proceeds, if any, to charity.

The tents of these well-to-do pickers are expensively furnished, and easy chairs, soft beds and up-to-date camping outfits are among their hopping appliances.

The other kind of hopper sleeps on straw—when it can be obtained—and works from 6 in the morning, wet or fine, to 7 at night.

Two detectives from Scotland Yard, disguised as hoppers, are working at present in the fields, watching as they pick for a man they want on a serious charge. They believe that sooner or later he will return to the field in which he has worked for years, and when he does they are ready for him.

All was quiet yesterday in the hopfields at East Garleigh, and the 2,000 men and women who "struck" for better terms worked silently and industriously down the long parallel lines without open murmur or complaint.

"IT'S SPORT," BUT SUCH A PRICE

One Driver's Car Runs Down and Kills Best Friend in Cup Race.

New York, Oct. 8.—A sputtering, snorting, light blue streak, breathing continuous flame, shot across the finish tape in the Vanderbilt cup race shortly after 11 o'clock Saturday morning, and Louis Wagner, in his French Darracq, had won America's most famous automobile contest. He had covered the 297.1 miles in 290 minutes 10 2-5 seconds. None of the American machines finished in the first five, France being first, Italy second, France third and fourth and Germany fifth.

It was a thrilling struggle, but such a toll of death and injury did the whizzing cars exact that the donor of the trophy, Wm. K. Vanderbilt, jun., declared his doubt if ever another cup race would be run.

The battle of speed produced one tragedy as dramatic as it was terrible. Elliott F. Shepard, driving his 80-horsepower Hotchkiss car at top speed around Krug's corner, struck and killed his own best friend, Bert L. Gruner, a wealthy resident of Passaic, N. J. The victim was hurled 50 feet. Shepard, not knowing whom he had struck, sped on. Afterward when the truth was told him, he broke down and wept.

Shepard's car was disabled by the accident and he was forced to quit the race immediately afterward. He will be placed under arrest, according to the sheriff of Nassau County.

The crowd which lined the dangerous points of the course seemed utterly reckless of their lives. Hundreds of persons surged out on the track repeatedly, and many of the accidents were directly due to this cause. After the first cars finished the course became overrun and this compelled Referee Vanderbilt to call off the race.

Before the race was half over, one man, Gruner, had been instantly killed, a boy was fatally injured, and half a dozen spectators had been bruised by the unruly cars.

Joseph Tracey, in his locomobile, crashed into a crowd of men and boys and seriously injured Sylvester Baldwin, a boy, of Norwalk, Conn. Several others were slightly hurt. Tracey held to the course.

Dr. Weilschott, an amateur driver of a car, lost control of his big 120-horsepower machine on the very first round. He ran down two boys on a bicycle, then plunged down a 30-foot enbankment. Both the driver and Colombo, his mechanician, were picked up unconscious, but were quickly revived. The injured boys are John Brooks and Robert Ten Eyck, both living near the course. Several persons were run down by touring cars in the crush going to and returning from the race.

It was impossible to keep the immense throng off the course.

DOG BURIED IN HAYSTACK.

London, Oct. 7.—A farmer at Littleport lost his dog four days ago. Yesterday his daughter heard a faint barking proceeding from a corn stack which had been recently erected, and when the stack was cut in two the animal, thin, but jovial at its release, was found inside.

SCHOOLBOY'S RECORD.

London, Oct. 7.—A boy named John Whitlow, of Stockton Heath, near Warrington, has attended his village school for eleven years without being absent or late once. He has been presented with a gold watch by the managers, and the scholars are subscribing for a chain.

HEIR OR HEIRESS?

London, Oct. 7.—When he learned that he was the father of a fine infant, a Tunbridge Wells resident hurried to a local newspaper office to have a birth notice inserted. In his excitement, however, he had not stayed to find out whether it was a boy or girl, and he had to return to his home to ascertain the sex.

RICH WORKHOUSE INMATES.

London, Oct. 7.—Two swarms of bees were yesterday discovered in the rafters of the workhouse at Market Harborough. The combs, which measured 14 by 9 inches, contained 50 pounds of honey.

TRAM PROFITS FOR CONCERTS.

Sheffield, Oct. 7.—Over £21,000 out of the profits of the Sheffield Corporation Tramways is being contributed in relief of the city's rates this year, being equal to about 7 cents in the pound. This successful municipal enterprise also provides a special fund, out of which grants are made to various objects not supportable out of the rates, such as the maintenance of municipal winter concerts and the preliminary expenses of an electrical exhibition which is being promoted by the corporation.

PLAGUE OF RABBITS.

London, Oct. 6.—Rabbits are so numerous and have done so much damage in Devon that farmers have been killing as many as possible, and are hawking them about the villages at the price of 3 pence each. On one farm at Colompton two or three thousand have been eaten within the last eight weeks.

NOT TOO OLD AT 98.

London, Oct. 6.—The Rev. Thomas Lord, who is 98 years old, delivered two eloquent and fiery sermons last Sunday at Horncastle. He preached in the Baptist Church and the Congregational Church to crowded congregations.