

Q. Did you ascertain the truth of the rumour?—A. No, because it was of no value. May I just tell you frankly what it was? I understand that that was offered to the Canadian Pacific Railway some three or four years ago. That was immediately after the war, they had no firm offer, had no option on the building as has been stated, and it was at a time when property was very very low, just at the tail end of the war.

Q. Your information is that the property was offered to the Canadian Pacific Railway in what year?—A. 1919 or 1920.

Q. 1919 or 1920?—A. Yes.

Q. And at what price was the property offered to them?—A. I have not that information.

Q. You have not that information. You then said that they had not an option or any firm offer on it.—A. No, they had not.

Q. Who told you that?—A. I had been advised to that effect.

Q. Who told you that?—A. I was advised that Sir MacLaren Brown said that they never had an option on the building.

Q. Advised by him he had said that?—A. No, I did not say that. I said I had been advised that he stated that.

Q. That is what I asked you?—A. I told you I heard it.

Q. Who told you?—A. I heard it in London and I heard it in Paris.

Q. Can you tell me who gave you the information?—A. Yes, I can tell you one who gave me the information; Mr. Dalrymple was one.

Q. Anybody else?—A. Yes, there were others; I have forgotten whether it was Mr. Phillips or Mr. Young. Mr. Darymple did tell me.

Q. Did you see any of the Canadian Pacific officials?—A. No.

By the Chairman:

Q. Have you actual knowledge that the offer was made to the C.P.R.?—A. No, it is all rumour, altogether.

By Sir Henry Drayton:

Q. You only have what you were told by these people?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know anything about the offer of 40,000,000 francs?—A. Yes.

Q. That would be—what is the exchange to-day, about five cents?—A. Working it out the day the cable came, which was about a week ago, it worked out to approximately \$2,200,000, Sir Henry. That was within \$1,000 of it, anyway.

By Mr. Kyte:

Q. When you went to Paris, I suppose you went to consult with the solicitor, Mr. Archibald, as to the transaction, did you?—A. When I went to Paris, I went over with a free hand from Sir Henry Thornton to look into the whole matter and deal with it, communicating with him, of course, if there were any serious steps to be taken.

Q. To look at the whole matter; will you please be a little more definite as to your instructions.—A. There had been a great deal of criticism in the papers, references to the Scribe Hotel; everybody spoke of our Paris property there as the Scribe Hotel. Sir Henry Thornton asked if I would go over and go into the whole matter personally and report on it.

Q. And you went into it with Mr. Archibald, your solicitor?—A. Mr. Archibald and Mr. Brown, our solicitors in London, and our people generally in both Paris and London. Quite often, for instance, with our officials in London, in developing information and asking about certain things. I did not tell them it was leading up to the Paris property. I just wanted to gather certain information.

[Major G. A. Bell.]