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R. G. MacDONALD, LTD.

The Enquiry Conducted By T. Hollis Walker, K.C.

(Continued from page 4.)

Q.—Did you speak to Miss Miller? I meant to ask you this yesterday; did you speak to Miss Miller about the account at that time?

MR. LEWIS—Which account do you refer to?

MR. WARREN—The one to which the \$5,000 had been deposited.

COMMISSIONER—That is what is called the Trust Account.

A.—Mr. Curtis did not speak to me about the L. R. Curtis Trust Account. My recollection is that he referred to some insurance payments that had to be met in a reasonable time.

COMMISSIONER—Which would have to be paid out of the Trust Account? What other account would he take it out of?

A.—That is the account.

MR. WARREN—Did you speak to Miss Miller about the state of that account?

A.—I have no recollection.

Q.—The deposit slip has been put in showing that Miss Miller on the 1st of August put \$5,000 to that account. Did she just deposit that without any instructions verbal or written from you?

A.—She had no instructions from me with regard to the L. R. Curtis Trust Account; but I showed you the letters which I produced here yesterday.

COMMISSIONER—They don't suggest that she borrowed money for you?

A.—No.

MR. WARREN—Was that money deposited without any instructions from you?

A.—I have no recollection in connection with that deposit and had no knowledge of it until it came out in the evidence here and then I had it looked into by Mr. Fraser.

Q.—So that Miss Miller just deposited it upon her own free will; just upon her own idea; it is clear that she did deposit it?

A.—Yes, it is clear that she deposited it.

Q.—And she is clear that you asked her to get it?

A.—I have no recollection of it at all. I know that at that time there were substantial insurance premiums which were expected to be due by the Companies at Bell Island.

COMMISSIONER—You told us all that before; I don't want that over again.

MR. WARREN—Do you know if those amounts were received?

A.—My Insurance office records would show that the Besco owed the office a little over \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER—At that time did you owe them \$5,000?

A.—At that time I had no knowledge of the insurance account.

Q.—Will your ledger tell us just how much they owed and if it was paid to you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Would it be in your ledger?

A.—In whatever account book they used.

Q.—Will you find the book as you will be the person to know where to find these items?

A.—No, they ought to be found in the insurance records of the office.

Q.—Is there a separate book for the insurance?

A.—Mr. Fraser is the only person who would know all about that.

COMMISSIONER (to Mr. Lewis)—Perhaps you would get Mr. Fraser here after the adjournment and ask him to bring with him whatever he knows has anything to do with the insurance records of the office. He can be called after the adjournment.

MR. LEWIS—It will be done.

MR. WARREN—After you discovered that that payment had been made I don't care what time you did discover it; have you traced or tried to trace any other payments to your account, made by Miss Miller?

MR. LEWIS—Which payment?

MR. WARREN—The whole lot; any of them; have you traced or tried to trace any of the payments deposited to your account?

A.—In the case of the \$5,000, the matter to which we have just referred, when that came out here in evidence Mr. Fraser immediately looked into the account at the bank; he looked at it; then the \$500 deposit slip; that was looked into and I got a copy of the deposit slips made; with regard to the \$5,000 deposit made in December; I got a copy of that and came to the conclusion after seeing it that that was not money got from Mr. Meaney, but that, of course, I cannot prove.

Q.—I am not asking you if you tried to trace when they made the payments to your account; but you know that about \$43,000.00 was deposited to your private account; from these notes it has already been sworn to that certain other monies were deposited to your account; have you tried to trace these payments; as to what became of them afterwards?

A.—Mr. Fraser did some work on that; I think it is clear that the \$14,000.00 Star note was picked up and I think it is also clear that the \$6,000.00 was picked up. The "Star" account would indicate that a considerable amount of money was paid out during my absence for "Daily Star" purposes.

Q.—The "Star" account in your books?

A.—In Mr. Fraser's books.

COMMISSIONER—The one you were looking through yesterday for me?

A.—Yes, sir.

MR. WARREN—Beyond that I take it that you have not traced or tried to trace any of the other payments?

A.—I have not personally tried to trace these but I put Mr. Fraser on the job; I don't profess to be an expert accountant myself.

Q.—Do you remember your evidence; the evidence you gave in the earlier portion of this enquiry; with reference to the cheque for \$40,000?

A.—I don't remember the details of it, but the evidence will be the matter of the stenographer's record.

COMMISSIONER—Do I understand you to make a distinction between a payment made to yourself and a payment to the "Star"? Aren't they one and the same thing?

A.—Well, they are in the sense that I was financially helping the "Star".

Q.—More than helping, you were

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It is remarkable how many cases have been reported similar to this one. Many women are poorly and weak and get into a weakened, run-down condition, when it is essential to the mother, as well as the child, that her strength be kept up.

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Q.—And you say that no attempt was made to obtain a payment from Mr. McDougall or anybody at that time?

A.—There was no attempt whatever to get any money.

Q.—Was there any conversation with you and Mr. Meaney as to any attempt to be made or which had been made?

A.—There was no conversation as to any attempt which had been made or was to be made to get money.

Q.—No mention of the \$100,000?

A.—No.

Q.—You knew at this time about the \$46,000?

A.—Yes, I knew about it in March of that year.

Q.—And you had not been called upon to give anything on account of the \$46,000; as you said in your evidence yesterday; you came back to Newfoundland.

COMMISSIONER—There was something that Mr. Meaney said at that point that ought to be put to the witness; just look at Mr. Meaney's account, Mr. Warren of what took place.

He says "that you then discussed the payment of money from the BESCO he (that is you) desired to get campaign funds."

Q.—Did you say anything about wanting to get campaign funds?

A.—There was no mention of that; we discussed the labor situation.

COMMISSIONER—I am not going into that that was common ground between you. But there was plenty of time for other matters.

A.—I made no suggestion.

COMMISSIONER—(Reading his notes)—"He told me that he desired" and then he went on to say how you thought it could be done by contributions from Besco.

A.—Ahmad, Besco had already contributed in my opinion about \$40,000 odd; which I regarded as a contribution.

Q.—What he has suggested is that they were good for some more; but you deny it. Did he say he would talk to Mr. McDougall?

A.—He said that he and Mr. McDougall would see about labour troubles.

Q.—He was going to see Mr. McDougall?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—But you say he was going to discuss the labour situation with Mr. McDougall. Did he say he had seen Mr. McDougall? The evidence is that he told me that he repeated to you what had taken place between him and Mr. McDougall which was; that Mr. McDougall had asked if the \$100,000 was in addition to the \$51,000 that he had already had; did he say anything about that?

A.—I never heard of the figure fifty-ones.

Q.—When you were previously examined you said in reply to the Commissioner; I will read it to you when I find it here.

Quotation from previous evidence of Sir Richard Squires:—

Q.—She says that after you went in 1920 she exhausted him by November of that year? Would you know anything about that?

A.—Yes, I understood that after I came back in the spring of 1921 there were transactions between herself and J. J. Miller which are the subject matter of enquiry under the second paragraph.

COMMISSIONER—That is another matter. In so far as it has to do with this enquiry; did she tell you when you came back?

A.—No. She did tell me in the Spring of 1921 that her brother and she had arranged certain finances for the Daily Star during my absence.

Q.—Have you looked up the accounts to see what did come from that brother?

A.—My recollection is that a cheque for \$46,000.00 was given by the Daily Star to Miller covering the amounts which Miller said he had advanced.

(Ends Quotation).

Q.—How do you reconcile that answer that you gave with your explanation of a voucher yesterday?

A.—I think it is quite clear that it is exactly what was done. There was a piece of paper, really a bank form; they were cheques in the form of cheques but they were known by Miss Miller not to be cheques in the sense that they would be of value; they were substituted for the cheques to which I referred.

COMMISSIONER—(To Mr. Warren): Will you read that again?

"My recollection is that a cheque for \$46,000.00 was given by the 'Daily Star' to Miller covering the amounts which Miller said he had advanced."

COMMISSIONER—I didn't expect to find what really took place was

that you yourself did give a document which was not a cheque which at best was only a voucher; an incomplete cheque; that you yourself had given it.

A.—The whole idea was that it was only a voucher.

Q.—You are being asked to reconcile your present answer with this?

A.—And I do.

Q.—But you, yourself had given this document to Mr. Miller which is neither a cheque nor anything else as far as I can see.

A.—That answer is very clear.

Q.—You think they are consistent?

A.—They both fit perfectly with the actual facts of the transactions.

Q.—I don't think that they do quite?

A.—They do in my mind as far as I recollect.

COMMISSIONER—As far as you recollect. You know, I have not liked this phrase of "I recollect," you know what had happened.

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A.—Which I did but I did not go into any explanations about it, Mr. Commissioner.

MR. WARREN—Then we come on to the position where we left off. In December, 1921 you left to meet Mr. Meaney at the Ritz Carlton in Montreal?

A.—In December, 1921, yes.

Q.—And you say that no attempt was made to obtain a payment from Mr. McDougall or anybody at that time?

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