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## The Enquiry Conducted by T. Hollis Walker, K.C.

(Continued from page 5.)

A.—I have no record to show that he ever did.

MR. HOWLEY.—Coming back to this \$3,000.00 paid in December there is I think a record in the Bank, a deposit slip, which would show the date and the nature of that deposit and the person by whom paid?

A.—Yes, I looked it up myself.

Q.—Did you go through your Bank of Commerce deposits for 1920 and 1921 with a view to ascertaining all the money deposits made by Miss Miller?

A.—I did.

Q.—And how many did you find?

A.—I could find no other than these two.

MR. HOWLEY.—She mentioned these two specifically. Did you go through your Bank of Nova Scotia deposit slips to ascertain what deposits had been made by Miss Miller and what amounts?

A.—I did.

Q.—Did you find any deposits by Miss Miller?

A.—There was a deposit slip for a small amount of money. I do not know the date of it because I did not bring along the duplicates. But I have duplicates from both banks, at home.

Q.—Did you find in your list of deposits in the Bank of Nova Scotia any deposits by Miss Miller that in amount or date could be said to resemble in dates or amounts those different payments that were put in evidence.

A.—No I did not. But before I would answer that I would like to have the deposit slips in front of me to check them over.

Q.—Now you have heard Miss Miller swear that she has received in all from Mr. Meaney some \$22,830.00, and that with the exception of \$400.00 retained for expenses that she has utilized all the rest for you or on your account?

A.—Yes she said that.

Q.—You have also heard her swear that some of this money she deposited to your account in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, that part of it she used for financing some matters in the office, that some she gave to you direct, and some to the Daily Star. What have you to say to that?

A.—I am not prepared to either confirm or deny it. So far as the office records are concerned an accountant might after some months be able to

A.—The summer of 1923. In the summer of 1923 I ordered an audit. That is, it was ordered at a meeting of the Executive Government.

Q.—Was there ever a stock-taking ordered?

A.—That was done at the same time, or approximately at the same time.

Q.—Now, I think at the time you formed this political organization in 1919, Mr. Meaney was a political supporter of yours?

A.—My answer to that is that I believe he was.

Q.—At that time I think he had ceased to be employed by the Newfoundland Postal Telegraph Service?

A.—My recollection is that he was employed by the Star newspaper.

Q.—And this newspaper was the recognized organ of your party?

A.—It was.

Q.—And Meaney was engaged on the staff of that paper? I think in the election of 1919 Mr. Meaney was a candidate?

A.—He was for the constituency of Harbor Main.

Q.—For your party?

A.—For my party.

Q.—And he was not successful?

A.—He was not.

Q.—After the election was over I think he continued his writings in connection with the Star newspaper?

A.—Yes, he retained his connection with the Star I think, until the date of his appointment as Acting Controller. He continued to receive payments to cover his living expenses up to that date. This is my recollection.

Q.—You were a party to his appointment as Acting Controller?

A.—I was.

Q.—I notice that the notice of appointment is dated 11th August, and you had left on the 3rd. What I want to get at is, this appointment had been decided upon before you left, or was it made by the remaining members of the Government?

A.—My recollection is that we had a meeting of Committee of Council before my departure, at which he would have been appointed Acting Controller. That it was resolved that he was to be appointed. There would be a record of committee of council on that point.

Q.—At any rate you did not oppose his appointment?

A.—No.

Q.—After his appointment as Acting Controller, did the friendship that had existed between you prior to that date, the political friendship, did it continue or cease?

A.—The political association continued to the extent that he still interested himself in the constituency of Harbor Main.

Q.—What about the personal friendship?

A.—The personal relationship was really politically.

Q.—How about these extracts from the local press?

A.—That was political antagonism. COMMISSIONER.—It would appear from these that Mr. Meaney had got a grievance, and that was that he had not been appointed as full Controller?

A.—Yes, that is it. But that did not come till some time after.

Q.—He was expecting the full appointment within a brief period of this appointment as Acting Controller, and after a time he became clamorous, and these articles seem to be a reiteration of your wickedness in not fulfilling your promise?

Q.—The letters suggest that the reason why he was made Acting Controller was that there was some idea of altering the organization. Was it altered?

A.—No.

Q.—Was the idea given up?

A.—It was not exactly given up. It went into abeyance.

Q.—Then he began to say, "Now, I want you to fulfil your promise?"

A.—Yes.

Q.—And he wanted to know why he did not receive his appointment? There was some resolution that he says was not put before the Government?

A.—My answer to that would involve my referring to resolutions of the Committee of Council.

Q.—Is there any doubt on it?

A.—There is. It is true that some of the members urged for the appointment and it did not meet with any personal view.

COMMISSIONER.—You have still some examination in chief Mr. Howley to go on with.

MR. HOWLEY.—Yes Sir.

COMMISSIONER.—Would Sir Richard Squires please return to the witness stand.

Sir Richard Squires returned to the witness stand.

Q.—We had been discussing yesterday just before recess, Sir Richard, the personal political relationship of Mr. Meaney and yourself during the years preceding his appointment as Acting Controller, and I think where we left off you had told us that Mr. Meaney in the interval, that is, between the 1919 election and the time of his appointment had done some writing in connection with the "Daily Star" newspaper. Now when the appointment of Acting Controller was made was there any reason why that was an acting appointment instead of a full appointment?

COMMISSIONER.—That was stated by letter which intimated that there was then in contemplation some revision of the system.

WITNESS.—Would you let me see the letter?

COMMISSIONER.—Is not that a fair way to put it? There was in contemplation a revision of the system?

A.—Yes, there was; in other words the appointment was made provisionally.

MR. HOWLEY.—Were you in any way a party to the letter that was sent to Mr. Meaney containing his appointment?

A.—The matter came before Committee of Council as I remember it; probably it was the last meeting of Committee of Council before I left town on August 3rd. His appointment was made, authorized or concurred in.

COMMISSIONER.—And the formal document was sent later?

A.—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY.—Were the instructions of August 11th that went to him under this date your instructions?

A.—They were not dictated by me; but they were indicated by me.

COMMISSIONER.—Is that a true document and do you want to qualify the statement?

A.—That clearly states the situation.

MR. HOWLEY.—Well, Sir Richard, after this appointment was made, I think the question of making Mr. Meaney's appointment to full control came up?

A.—In the winter or spring of 1921, as after I returned from England in December 1920, Mr. Meaney was naturally desirous of getting the full appointment.

Q.—Was that desire conveyed to you in any way?

A.—It frequently happened that some friends and acquaintances of Mr. Meaney and some friends and acquaintances of my own intimated that it would be a nice thing to be done and that Mr. Meaney would like it.

Q.—During this period who was Minister of Finance and Customs?

A.—Mr. H. J. Brownrigg was Minister of Finance and Customs during the entire period of my administration from 1919 to 1923, with the exception that about the time of the prorogation of the Legislature in the spring of 1923 or shortly after he took permanent leave and Mr. Thomas Bonia was appointed Acting Minister in his stead.

COMMISSIONER.—It was stated that you were in fact doing Mr. Brownrigg's work during his absence, is that correct?

A.—That is both correct and incorrect. Correct in the sense that his physical ailment made it impossible for him to attend to the regular duties of his office. He very frequently attended meetings of Committee of Council and did the best possible in the discharge of his duties generally in view of his physical condition.

COMMISSIONER.—His illness interfered with him in the performance of his duties, is that what you suggest, and you took on his work?

A.—Many matters that were referred to me in connection with his department I took them up with him when he was well enough.

COMMISSIONER.—You expressed it in more words but it means the same thing.

MR. HOWLEY.—Was the full appointment made in 1921?

A.—No.

Q.—On various occasions representations were made to you as to the desirability of making the full appointment?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you remember what attitude you took or what reply you made?

A.—No, I never indicated very definitely. I always had in mind that the Committee of Council purposed reorganization in connection with the department.

Q.—And you omitted to express a definite opinion either for or against the appointment?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you at any time make the specific statement of your attitude on this appointment, for or against?

A.—No officially, no.

COMMISSIONER.—Or at all?

A.—In conversation with some of Mr. Meaney's or some of my personal

friends I very often made my attitude known.

MR. HOWLEY.—When did you make it known to your friends?

A.—In the spring of 1921 some friends of Mr. Meaney came to me and felt that I was not, perhaps, treating him with the courtesy that I might and that I was not prepared to give him any particular pledge or any specific date when Mr. Meaney's appointment in full was to be made.

Q.—And that attitude continued down through the year 1921?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was there in 1922 any change or expression by you of your attitude towards this thing?

A.—No. My attitude was about the same, but as the months went by it became less and less probable—and I think it was in the minds of the public and in my own mind—that Mr. Meaney would get the full appointment; but there was never any definite suggestion in the matter so far as I can remember until a Committee of Council concurred in it in 1923.

Q.—Do you remember the matter being dealt with at all in 1923, prior to your departure from the Colony?

A.—My recollection is that the Minister of Finance and Customs on one occasion recommended to the Executive Government that Mr. Meaney should be appointed to full control and that he had some support, though it was not mentioned on the regular Agenda of Council. No motion of Council was taken of the matter and nothing was done.

Q.—But his appointment of full control was recommended by Mr. Brownrigg?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ever state definitely that you were or were not in favor of making the full appointment either to Meaney or any of those who were importing him on behalf of Meaney?

A.—No, the appointment was an Executive Government appointment and the person who would recommend the appointment would be the Minister of Finance and Customs under whom the control department was.

COMMISSIONER.—It is no use for me to follow the long answers to the questions. I do not want these voluminous statements.

MR. HOWLEY.—The department of control came under the Finance and Customs department did it not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And not under the department of the Colonial Secretary?

A.—No.

Q.—When Mr. Meaney stated in his examination in chief that he got his instructions at the time of his appointment from you that is not correct, is it?

A.—He got no instructions personally. He got that letter from the department of Finance and Customs, because that department is an Executive appointment. COMMISSIONER.—Is Mr. Meaney answer wrong or right? I came down long speeches nor am I to. I am only going to take answers, to questions. You asked Mr. Meaney was correct in saying he got his instructions from the department at the time of his appointment?

A.—The instructions he got contained in that letter three or four lines and sent by me to him and signed after I left the COMMISSIONER.—So that the instructions contained in that letter neither gave nor sent the instructions?

A.—None whatever.

MR. HOWLEY.—That contained instructions continued down to the affairs of the department?

Q.—Can you fix the date more or less than that?

A.—It was after the general election which took place in November of 1923. It was sometime after the general election which took place that that happened?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the next development in the situation?

A.—Mr. Bortea, as Auditor General, reported to me that he was not going along satisfactorily.

Q.—In writing?

A.—No. A few days after Mr. Bortea declined to put his signature to the report, and later he reported to me that he would continue as usual, meanwhile Mr. Bortea wrote a letter in connection with the report. Have you the letter now?

A.—No, it was an official communication.

Q.—Were there any further developments after Mr. Bortea's report?

A.—When I received, or shortly after I received the letter to Mr. Bortea to attend a meeting of the Committee of Council for the purpose of discussing "liquor" control and Mr. Bortea attended that meeting. He took the position that he was not responsible for the department's work of the department, that was the administrative part that he would assume responsibility for the financial end of it was concurred in by Committee of Council.

COMMISSIONER.—Were there fresh developments as regards Meaney?

(Continued on page 9.)

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