

Q. We have the details all set out on the 30th to the fullest extent we can get them—on the 30th of April. Is it your evidence that you did not have those details at the time you saw the Prime Minister?—A. That is right.

Q. So the substance of it all is that you had a general talk with the Premier, and so far as he was concerned, he saw no objection to your going ahead and buying the building?—A. In so far as the question of policy went; but it was not even with respect to the details, because I was not in a position to tell him what the details were.

Q. So he knew nothing about the matter involved at that time?—A. That is right.

Q. Is it a fact that the Premier then came into this matter approximately a week before the 30th of April? What other members of the Government did you see?—A. I am not sure whether I talked to Mr. Graham in regard to that or not. I think I probably did. (To Mr. Bell): Do you know whether I did or not?

Major BELL: That was later on.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: How much later?

The WITNESS: I don't know; I don't remember.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Was it before or after your letter of May 31st to Mr. Graham?—A. I should think it was probably after.

Q. Because, so far as this letter is concerned, it is quite obvious that if this letter is frank, that would be the first intimation Mr. Graham would get. I will read it to you and you will see if I am wrong in what I suggest to you: "For some months, the necessity for a more aggressive campaign"—A. What was the date of that letter?

Q. April 31st.

"For some months the necessity for a more aggressive campaign in Europe on the part of the Canadian National Railway System has been apparent to me if we are to get our share of the European business, and likewise develop a constructive immigration policy."

Mr. STEWART: That date is not April 31st.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Did I say April? I beg your pardon. May 31st.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. It would seem to me that Mr. Graham knew nothing about it until he got this letter. I may be wrong.—A. I cannot answer that definitely but I think the chances are I discussed the matter with Mr. Graham, sometime prior to that, and then wrote that letter to him, which somewhat more or less represented the result of our conversation.

Q. So the writing of this letter to Mr. Graham, according to your evidence, is that it represents more or less the result of the conversation you had with him?—A. I think so, Sir Henry.

Q. Well, how definite are you in your thought? Have you any recollection about it?—A. Well, I have a recollection of discussing the matter with Mr. Graham, but how many days in advance of that letter, I do not know; I cannot remember the exact date. I talked to the Minister about so many different subjects that it is not an easy matter to recall, after a year's lapse of time the precise date at which a certain conversation which may have been more or less informal, took place—

Q. Sir Henry, this matter was ventilated very thoroughly as far as the information we had would permit almost immediately afterwards; there was a great deal said about it. It was a matter of direct importance; this is no

[Sir Henry Thornton.]