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

JANUARY 15th.

COMMISSIONER—Will you let me see your pass book?

WITNESS—Yes. I have it here.

COMMISSIONER—What was the date of the last entry?

WITNESS—I left St. John's on June 4, 1922.

COMMISSIONER—I am not interested in that. I am interested only in the state of the account at that time.

WITNESS—One June 30th.

COMMISSIONER—I am not interested in that. Can you answer the question?

WITNESS—I can't answer the question, because the book is not balanced at that date.

COMMISSIONER—Can you not by your pass book find the state of your bank account. If you want to see a cheque, is there nothing in your pass book to show whether you are in funds or not?

WITNESS—No. You would find out from the Bank, but not from books.

COMMISSIONER—So that you did not know whether you were in funds or not?

WITNESS—You would know that by your own records.

COMMISSIONER—When you keep your records. So that this book did not show whether you were in funds or not?

WITNESS—I say that from the time it is not possible to tell whether any particular day, in any particular month, your account stands in any particular way.

COMMISSIONER—If you could not find from the books could you tell me any other source?

WITNESS—You could tell by entering the Bank.

COMMISSIONER—Have you ever been to the Bank whether or not your account was overdrawn at this time?

WITNESS—Then why were you so sure you were not overdrawn?

WITNESS—Because the account was with a credit balance of over \$100 at the 25th July.

COMMISSIONER—But how did you know that you were not overdrawn at that date?

WITNESS—I did not believe that I was out of town from the 23rd to the last day of July.

COMMISSIONER—A great deal here upon contradiction between you and Miss Miller. She says on July 27th, 1922, your account was overdrawn. Does that account

show the payment of this \$500.00?

A—Yes. I know that at the end of the month of July the account had a small credit balance, but just how it stood at the middle of the month I do not know.

COMMISSIONER—There was a deposit on the 27th to the credit of the account.

MR. HOWLEY—On page 3 of my cross-examination of Mr. Meaney he says "she came to me and said that she wanted \$1,000.00 at that time. I gave her \$500.00 and asked her to bring me a duplicate deposit slip. She took it to the Bank and deposited it. I said that if I gave her more it would be on the same conditions. Then I discontinued. I think at the time Sir Richard Squires was out of the country or going to leave. I think he was leaving the country and left her these instructions. That is what she told me." Did you give her those instructions?

A—I gave her no instructions whatever. I left on June 23rd for Grand Falls, and then left the country via Port aux Basques.

Q—Did you give her no instructions with regard to your private account at all?

A—She never had any instructions with regard to my Canadian Bank of Commerce account.

Q—So that payment of that amount was contrary to your instructions?

A—I never ordered her not to pay moneys into the account.

Q—You did not order her not to, but you did expect that she would?

A—No.

Q—And the only moneys of yours that she would be likely to have were insurance moneys?

A—From the political standpoint she and her brother were political friends and political campaign supporters and subscribers, and probably there would be money coming through that channel.

Q—Were these kept in this account at the Canadian Bank of Commerce?

A—That was my political account.

Q—If you had subscriptions where would be the ordinary place to put them?

A—Either at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, or at the Bank of Nova Scotia. Depending upon circumstances.

COMMISSIONER—Did you know that these payments of \$500.00 and \$3,000 were paid into this account?

A—Yes. There would be a large number of political payments.

Q—Do you know if she ever made any political payments at all. Her evidence says that these were not political payments, but that they

came from Meaney. Can you say if she ever received anything political for you?

A—I believe she did from her brother. I am of opinion that that \$3,000.00 was not money received from Meaney. That is my own personal view of the matter, but I can't prove it.

Q—Then you say that she did receive money from political sources?

A—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—I have here, sir, copies obtained from the Bank of the actual deposit slips under which this \$500.00 and this \$3,000.00 were deposited.

COMMISSIONER—For the \$500.00 we have a document, and I suppose this is a duplicate. I suppose that document is a counterfeit?

MR. HOWLEY—We have no counterfeits here.

COMMISSIONER—In our payments in we have a slip like a cheque. The slip is perforated, and you tear off one side and get the bank to initial it, and give the other side to the bank, and keep the initialled or the stamped side for the purposes of keeping the books.

MR. HOWLEY—We do not have those here.

COMMISSIONER—You just make out one of those slips and they do not give anything in return?

MR. HOWLEY—If you ask for it they do.

COMMISSIONER—Under these circumstances the originals would be kept by the Bank, and they have given you copies?

MR. HOWLEY—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—I do not see that there is any reason for doubting that these are fair copies. I shall let you use them.

WITNESS—The practice in my office up to the time that I retired from business was to have duplicates. The practice was that the clerk made up a slip and a duplicate and had the bank stamp the duplicate.

MR. HOWLEY—Are these copies which you received from the bank of those two deposit slips?

A—Yes. These are copies given by me by one of the officials of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

COMMISSIONER—In the absence of any suggestion to the contrary I shall assume that these are accurate.

MR. HOWLEY—I shall put these in. (Put in marked R. A. S. 1 and 2.)

Q—In my cross-examination of Mr. Meaney I asked him "why did you not want an audit?" and he replied "it does not refer to this particular one but I will tell you. Some time in 1922 I ascertained that the Auditor General intended making a check up of the stock. The amount then outstanding was represented by those L.O.V.s, and I sent word to the Premier, not myself, that if the audit of the Department was intended I would have to be reimbursed for the Department for the whole amount which was then outstanding before it was done, and I understood from the Auditor General that Squires said to desist." Now was any word brought to you by anyone with regard to reimbursement on that occasion?

A—No.

COMMISSIONER—I assume that you mean that Miss Miller was a go-between, and Sir Richard Squires has already said that Miss Miller did not mention any of these matters to him.

MR. HOWLEY—I understand he says he learned from the Auditor General that Squires said to desist?

WITNESS—I did not make any such statement.

MR. HOWLEY—What the Auditor General says is that you said "let it stand over." Later on in the examination he was asked if the Auditor General told him that, and he answers "a clerk of the Auditor General."

COMMISSIONER—Does it make any difference who told him? Somebody in connection with the Auditor General's office told him that Sir Richard Squires had stopped it, whereas he says that all he had done was to say "let it stand over."

MR. HOWLEY—In further cross-examination I asked Mr. Meaney when did the breach that is between you and himself become serious, and he answered in March, 1922, speaking from memory. Do you remember anything happening in March, 1922, that would justify that statement?

COMMISSIONER—You must remember all that Mr. Meaney said. He said that he had been suspicious for some time, and he had made up his mind that Sir Richard Squires was not going to fulfill what he thought he had promised him—the appointment to full Controller.

WITNESS—There is no particular incident. But in the summer of 1922 Mr. Meaney was wanting the appointment, and I was not giving him satisfaction.

COMMISSIONER—He was clamorous and resentful?

WITNESS—Yes. But that had been going on for nearly two years. He thought that if I was there he might not get it.

COMMISSIONER—He seems to have thought that you had promised it, and that you were not fulfilling your promise, and as a result he was getting sore.

COMMISSIONER—You are going back to an alleged interview, Sir Richard, that it ever took place.

MR. HOWLEY—Coming to these statements of Mrs. Harasant. In her examination, when she was asked as to when her employment ceased, she did not seem to be able to fix any definite date. Are you able to say when her employment ceased?

A—Her connection with my law office terminated at the end of July. I understand her keys were delivered up at that time. I have no personal knowledge, the information was given me by one of the clerks.

COMMISSIONER—But she went on doing personal matters for you. Those of the staff who have been here agreed that she went on doing insurance matters, and she also went on doing financial matters for you?

A—Not to my knowledge, except in that she assisted in the circle in which she moved to raise what money she could for the political campaign.

COMMISSIONER—I think that is different from what she meant by "financing."

WITNESS—She was then entitled to \$40.00 per month up to the time that the insurance which she represented and controlled was sold.

MR. HOWLEY—Miss Miller has told us specifically that her first dealing with Mr. Meaney was because you had suggested to her to go to Mr. Meaney. Is that so?

A—That is not true.

COMMISSIONER—She has already denied that.

MR. HOWLEY—She has told us that prior to your departure for England in 1920, you instructed her to go first to her brother for financial assistance, and when her brother's resources in that direction were exhausted to call on Mr. Meaney. Is that correct?

A—That is not correct.

COMMISSIONER—You denied that yesterday. I assume that you would deny to-day what you denied yesterday. You gave a detailed account yesterday on your notes and the rest of it.

MR. HOWLEY—By the way, you told us yesterday that prior to your going away in 1920, you left some notes?

A—Yes. I said I left some notes, either signed or endorsed, or both, with my secretary, Miss Saunders, to whom I also dictated a letter of which no information was given.

COMMISSIONER—I shall want the letter if it exists. I thought it was a letter to Miss Miller?

A—So it was.

COMMISSIONER—Presently she will be recalled, and we shall find out what has become of the original.

MR. HOWLEY—You left some notes—signed or endorsed?

A—Probably both.

Q—Do you remember what forms what bank they were on?

A—My judgment would be that they would be on the Bank of Nova Scotia.

COMMISSIONER—Your judgment would be of no use to us. We should like to see the notes.

MR. HOWLEY—You signed those notes you say, and gave them to Miss Saunders?

A—Yes, my Secretary, the same person to whom I dictated the letter.

Q—Did you give Miss Saunders any instructions as to the disposition of the notes?

A—I gave her verbal instructions; she was to deliver one and all of them to Miss Miller as circumstances might require, that is should such circumstances arise.

Q—And I think you also wrote a letter addressed to Miss Miller on the same subject?

A—Yes.

Q—Mrs. Harasant told us you asked her not to fill out the counterfoils of the cheques?

A—No. I did not.

COMMISSIONER—That was denied yesterday.

MR. HOWLEY—She also stated that Mr. Meaney had asked for payment, and that she had brought the matter to your attention?

COMMISSIONER—That has already been denied by him.

MR. HOWLEY—She also stated that the money which she received from Mr. Meaney, the first cheque of \$500.00—that of December 12th—that she accounted for to Sir Richard.

Did she do so?

A—She may have some office records. There was no personal accounting with me.

COMMISSIONER—I understood you to state yesterday that she, from time to time, received money for you, but you had no idea it came from any public department?

A—No. Of what advantage would it be to me to get campaign funds that would have to be refunded. I could do borrowing myself.

MR. HOWLEY—Now then, Sir Richard, do you know what the conditions in your office were during the

(Continued on 8th page.)

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