

Q. Would that be regarded as private and confidential?—A. If you like.

Q. It is for you to say?—A. No.

Q. It is not on the file and the only reason for keeping anything off of the file is that it is private and confidential?—A. Presumably that would be it.

Q. I don't know "presumably"; it is for you to say?—A. I have nothing to add; it is relatively unimportant.

Q. We may find it important?—A. You may.

Q. He came out here at any rate about the first of April?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you first see the option?—A. I think it was shortly after his arrival, which would be about that time.

Q. Who gave the option?—A. The option was obtained from the owners of the property.

Q. Who were they?—A. I cannot tell you offhand. (To Major Bell) Major, do you know the precise owners of the property?

MAJOR BELL: I have not had occasion to inquire. I heard casually it was some estate.

The WITNESS: I can give that to you.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Perhaps I could give it to you?—A. I would be glad if you would.

Q. No, I have not brought that down. It appeared in a French newspaper—

Major BELL: I think that is right.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. I have a clipping of a newspaper upstairs, but I stupidly overlooked bringing it down. It is a French newspaper giving the name of the society, and also certain allegations regarding some 55,000 shares of stock which they thought should be accounted for, but, at any rate, you cannot tell me definitely what the name was, now?—A. (No response).

Q. Where is that option?—A. I do not know. I think probably Mr. Aronovici has it.

Q. We have not that in the file either?—A. No. I never had that.

Q. You did not obtain a copy of it?—A. No.

Q. Then, I observe also that the title deeds are not on the file at all. We have nothing here showing either from whom we got title or what the title is?—A. There is nothing in that file with respect to the title deeds, but we can tell you the name of the owner of the property.

Q. We have that?—A. That can be easily obtained.

Q. The present owner of the property is your organized company?—A. All the title deeds and papers which would affect it, I take it, are in Mr. Archibald's office. (To Major Bell): Is that so, Major?

Major BELL: Yes. I must take the blame for that. We can obtain these papers, but I thought it undesirable to delay matters in getting them from Paris. It is a straight transfer to Aronovici, and from Aronovici to the company.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Then, Sir Henry, we have Aronovici here on April 1st. How long did he stay here?—A. I think about a month, as I remember it.

Q. When he left, did you give him any instruction?—A. Yes, he was instructed to at once complete the arrangements for taking over the property in accordance with what has already been made public.

Q. So he got his definite instructions to close?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that about the first of May?—A. Either that, or perhaps a little before that.

[Sir Henry Thornton.]