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

FRIDAY, Jan. 18.

Mrs. Harsant (cross-examined by Mr. Howley:—

MR. HOWLEY—What money is this supposed to represent, in the first place?

A.—I do not exactly remember, Mr. Howley.

Q.—The cheque is made out in your handwriting?

A.—Yes.

Q.—The only writing of Sir Richard Squires is his signature?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And it purports to be re Tucker and Godden insurance.

A.—Yes.

Q.—I think that is in your handwriting. Do you say that it represents amounts that you had advanced on account of these insurances.

A.—I mean that I had to account for these two amounts to Sir Richard.

Q.—I think the two amounts were $2000.00 and $1135.00.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you borrow the money for the purpose of these advances? or did you take it out of the office funds?

A.—I do not just remember where I got it. I must have borrowed it or the firm's cheque would have been issued to these people.

Q.—Do you remember when you borrowed it? Were there two separate borrowings, or all at one time for both payments?

A.—I do not remember.

Q.—If you borrowed money for these payments was any of the borrowing done from Meaney?

A.—It may have been.

Q.—Would the money which you used to pay up have possibly have been borrowed from Meaney?

A.—My brother was financing as well as Meaney.

Q.—At the time you made these borrowings?

A.—Yes. Both of them.

Q.—Am I to understand that you borrowed the money for these payments either from your brother or from Meaney?

A.—I must have done it, otherwise the firm cheque would have been issued.

Q.—If, having borrowed the money, do you mean that you must have borrowed it from your brother or from Meaney or from both of them?

A.—I have already said that I only borrowed from my brother and Meaney.

COMMISSIONER—These are the only two people that you borrowed from?

A.—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—Then, Mrs. Harsant, when you were refunded the money by Sir Richard's cheque you did not repay either of them the amounts you had borrowed?

A.—If I had I would remember the cheque. I had forgotten all about the cheque until it was brought here this morning.

Q.—But you did not repay them?

A.—No.

Q.—But you think that you endorsed the cheque and handed it over to Sir Richard himself?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ask Sir Richard to sign the cheque yourself or did you send someone else with it?

A.—I do not remember anything about it. I do not know but Mr. Fraser asked me for a cheque to balance the account.

Q.—So that beyond the fact that you endorsed it you had nothing to do with it?

A.—I can't remember.

Q.—Do you remember whether the cheque was signed in Sir Richard's law office or in the Prime Minister's office?

A.—I do not remember.

Q.—Do you know if you brought it yourself or if it was sent?

A.—I do not remember.

Q.—Do you know if you wrote a letter asking him to sign it?

A.—I do not remember anything about it.

Q.—If I were to say to you that you did write him a letter asking him to sign the cheque, what would you say to that?

A.—I should like to see a copy of the letter.

Q.—Answer the question.

COMMISSIONER—She has answered the question. She says I should like to see a copy of the letter. Not a bad answer either.

MR. HOWLEY—You say that you endorsed the cheque and handed it right back to Sir Richard Squires?

A.—Yes, that is so. So far as I can remember Mr. Howley, I did not get the funds.

Q.—Do you remember if you asked for that cheque because of a need that you had at that time yourself for money?

A.—I do not remember, Mr. Howley.

Q.—I shall come back to this in a moment. In the meantime let me draw your attention to this question of messages to Sir Richard Squires in December 1921 and January 1922. You heard Mr. Warren's question the other day to Sir Richard as to the receipt of any letter or telegram from you when he was in Montreal in December 1921 and January 1922?

MR. WARREN—Excuse me, I asked about the deposit of this $3000.00.

WITNESS—I also sent a letter to him and Mr. Meaney handed it to him at the Ritz Carlton at Montreal.

COMMISSIONER — The telegrams were not sent, but you sent him a letter at Montreal. By post or how?

A.—Mr. Meaney was going to Montreal and he took it with him.

MR. HOWLEY—Mr. Meaney took a letter to Sir Richard at Montreal. Have you got a copy of that letter?

MR. WARREN—Excuse me, I asked Sir Richard if he had the original, and he said he had not.

MR. HOWLEY—Have you a copy of it?

A.—I have not a copy of the letter but I have a memorandum.

COMMISSIONER—I should like to see it.

WITNESS—Mr. Warren has the memorandum.

MR. HOWLEY—Is that the memorandum?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—May I look at it? (Reads memorandum) Was that a political matter?

A.—No. Financial.

MR. HOWLEY—Is this a copy of the letter that you gave to Mr. Meaney to take to Sir Richard Squires?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was it made at the time you wrote to Sir Richard or afterwards?

A.—It was made at the time. I typed out the memorandum and then wrote the letter from it.

Q.—Did you keep a copy of the letter?

A.—I did not. That seems to be all I have.

COMMISSIONER—Is it dated?

A.—No.

Q.—Is there any signature?.

A.—No. On that occasion Sir Richard had arranged to meet Mr. Meaney in Montreal.

MR. HOWLEY—Has there been anything torn off that?

A.—Not that I know of.

Q.—Is that the memorandum just as you made it?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Is there any indication that there was something written here at the bottom of that that was torn off?

A.—I do not know. I do not remember anything being torn off.

Q.—It looks like something had been torn off.

(Shows slip to Commissioner)

COMMISSIONER—It certainly is torn. I do not know that there is any indication of anything being written.

WITNESS—It was just a scrap of paper that was on my desk.

MR. HOWLEY—Now you gave this letter to Meaney to be taken by him to Sir Richard Squires?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know when Mr. Meaney left St. John's that time?

A.—I do not remember the date exactly. I know that Mr. Meaney met Sir Richard in Montreal often.

COMMISSIONER — Sir Richard Squires left that.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did Meaney go before or after you deposited this $3,000.00 in the Canadian Bank of Commerce?

A.—I do not remember that.

Q.—Well you know that he could not have gone before you got that $3,000.00 from him?

A.—No.

Q.—So that this $3,000.00 deposited in the Canadian Bank of Commerce must have come from Meaney before he left?

A.—Before he left on one of his trips.

Q.—But I am speaking of this particular trip when Sir Richard was in Montreal between December 1921 and January 1922.

A.—I think it does not refer to that trip. This trip was some time in the summer.

Q.—Then it does not refer to that time at all?.

A.—No. But I was in communication with Sir Richard all the time.

Q.—In December 1921 Sir Richard went to Montreal and remained there until January 1922. What communications did you make to Sir Richard on the occasion of his stay in Montreal at that time?

A.—I do not know what you mean.

COMMISSIONER—During that visit to Montreal, there were two draft telegrams that were not forwarded. Besides these, did you make any other communications to Sir Richard Squires during that visit to Montreal between December 1921 and Jan. 1922?

A.—These two messages may not have referred to that trip at all.

MR. HOWLEY—These are dated.

WITNESS—I was communicating with Sir Richard off and on all the time.

Q.—Have you any of those communications or copies of them?

A.—I have not.

Q.—When you say that you were in communication with him all the time do you mean that between the time of his departure in December 1921 and the time of his return in 1921 you had various communications with him?

A.—I am not referring to any on that trip.

Q.—I am, and you know it?

A.—I do not know what you mean.

Q.—Now in December 1921, according to the evidence you have given here, you received three different amounts from Meaney: $3,000.00 on the 5th of December; $2,000.00 on the 15th December and $4,000.00 on 19th December. Is that correct?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Are you able to refer us to which particular amount of these receipts you had recourse to make the deposit at the Canadian Bank of Commerce?

A.—If I made a deposit of $3,000.00 it would be that $3,000.00 amount that I had at the time. I think it must have been the $3,000.00.

Q.—Do you think that it might have been part of the $4,000.00?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—But you think that it would have been the $3,000.00?

COMMISSIONER—What was the date of the deposit?

A.—28th Dec., 1921.

MR. HOWLEY—You told us that on many occasions you had received large amounts from your brother. How would you receive these amounts?

A.—The amounts from my brother would be transferred from the branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Bell Island to the Bank in St. John's.

Q.—This $5,000 deposit to Mr. Curtis's account appears to have been in cash?

A.—Sir Richard sent for me just previous to his leaving and asked me if I could raise $5,000.00 or $10,000.00 and I wrote my brother, and I think Sir Richard made some arrangement with him, and he said no, he could not do it, but he would help him out for the time being by giving him $5,000.00 in cash, and in the meantime he gave Sir Richard this policy I refer to. That would mean that Sir Richard would owe my brother the balance.

Q.—The deposit was in cash. I think according to the deposit slip, just have a look at it, that is consisted of ten $10.00 bills and two hundred $20.00 bills?

A.—Yes.

Q.—On the various occasions when you received cash from your brother, would that be the general denomination of the bills that you would receive?

A.—I think there was only one or two cases that I received cash from him.

Q.—But when you did, it would probably be in bills of fairly large denomination?

A.—That is the only amount of money I received from him in cash as far as I can remember.

Q.—Will you have a look at this?

MR. WARREN—Just a minute please. I would like to see it.

COMMISSIONER—Do you think you will be very long, Mr. Howley? I was in great hopes of finishing this.

MR. HOWLEY—I don't think I will be very long.

Q.—Will you look at that?

A.—Yes, I remember it now; it is a letter I sent Sir Richard in regard to the Tucker losses.

(Letter put in evidence and read).

Q.—Did you cash the cheque?

A.—I remember seeing Sir Richard at his house and handing the cheque back to him. He telephoned me and asked me to come and see him.

Q.—You wrote that letter and sent it, covering that cheque you wanted him to sign?

MR. WARREN—Sir Richard telephoned her.

WITNESS—I remember handing the cheque to him, but I had forgotten about the letter.

MR. HOWLEY—Sir Richard telephoned you to come to his house?

A.—Yes; it was probably at noontime.

Q.—Had you sent him back the cheque?

A.—I don't remember that.

Q.—You had forgotten whether you sent him back the cheque or whether you gave it to him at the house. If he telephoned you to come to his house, do you remember whether the cheque had come back to you signed or whether you got it at the house?

A.—I remember only that I handed the cheque back.

Q.—You remember he telephoned you to come to the house?

A.—He must have telephoned.

Q.—Do you remember if he did?

A.—I think so.

Q.—Do you remember whether he said to bring the cheque with you or not?

Q.—I don't remember that.

Q.—But you do remember that at his house you handed him back the cheque with the endorsement on it?

A.—I remember the cheque distinctly and that I handed it back to him. I was surprised when I heard of the cheque here this morning.

Q.—Were you surprised when you heard of the letter?

A.—I worked hard for Sir Richard, I could never remember all the things I did for him.

COMMISSIONER—We have yet to find the Witness whose memory is perfect in this matter.

MR. HOWLEY—Then your pressing need for your cheque as stated in this letter was not satisfied?

COMMISSIONER—Let us read the letter.

A.—Probably Sir Richard wanted the cheque back.

MR. HOWLEY—Now then in that letter you remember referring to the dates upon which you made these payments, do you not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I think you say that the $2000.00 item was borrowed on the 12th of March.

COMMISSIONER—On May 12th.

MR. HOWLEY—On May 12th you borrowed $2,000.00. Having got that date settled which you were unable to recollect are you now able to say whether you borrowed the money from Mr. Meaney or your brother?

A.—I don't know. I was borrowing money from my brother all the time.

Q.—On March 11th, are you able to say who you borrowed the money from Mr. Meaney or your brother?

A.—I don't know. I was borrowing money from my brother all the time.

Q.—On March 11th, are you able to say who you borrowed the money from? That is, the $1135.00?

A.—I don't remember. It was a case of going to my brother and getting ice-bound on Bell Island and then going to Mr. Meaney.

Q.—Did you always go to Bell Island on these occasions?

A.—Sometimes he came over. It was a transfer from the Bank of Bell Island to the bank in St. John's. I had to go over to do it; my brother was not going to do it without some explanation.

Q.—Anyway you did not refund the whole or part, but you gave the cheque to Sir Richard?

A.—The money was not refunded.

Q.—You told us when you were disputing it how you came to give Mr. Meaney the possession of that duplicate deposit slip for the Bank of Commerce?

A.—I did not intend to give it to him. He took it from me.

Q.—Do you remember what he said about how he got it?

A.—I was satisfied for him to have it, as he wanted it.

Q.—Mr. Meaney says that he wanted you to get the duplicate slip and bring it to him?

A.—Probably he did.

Q.—So that your story that you showed it to him and you did not intend him to have it and still he took it is not correct?

A.—I went back to him for more money, and I gave it to him to show him what I did with the first.

Q.—You first came and got $5,000.00 and the idea was that you were to come back for a further amount?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You had to bring back with you the deposit slip to show that you had put the money in? He asked you to bring it back?

A.—He probably did.

Q.—Was it because Mr. Meaney was suspicious that you would not deposit the money for Sir Richard?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—You are not able to give us any further explanation on that matter?

A.—No.

Q.—When Sir Richard went away Aug. 3rd, 1920, and you discovered the condition of affairs in the Bank of Nova Scotia, you learned from Mr. Glennie that he was not prepared to finance any further?

A.—Yes, Mr. Howley.

Q.—Then I think you told us you came to him and submitted some names?

A.—That would be after he said he was going to bring Sir Richard Back.

Q.—First there was an application for accomodation which he refused?

A.—Mr. Glennie sent for me; I did not go to see him.

Q.—When you went he refused further application?

A.—He absolutely refused.

(Continued on page 5.)

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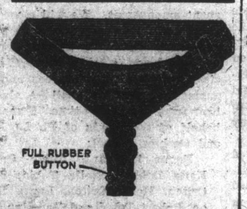

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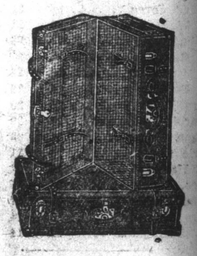

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