

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

(Continued from page 8.)

1921, as could be deducted from his letters "peculiarly and particularly" to Miss Miller recasting her story. The evidence did not appear as to what transpired when the cheque from I.O.U.'s was made. The duplicate deposit slip July 1921 tended to clinch a hold on the matter. There was nothing to show that Miss Miller had given Meany a cheque or I.O.U. either in the case of Golden or Tucker. The only cheque of borrowing Meany had corresponding to this period was \$1,000 on May 7th and an I.O.U. \$1,000 March 1921.

COMMISSIONER—Is it one thousand dollars?
MR. HOWLEY—I have \$1,000.00.
COMMISSIONER—I have \$385.00, the first I.O.U. in March 1921, and I had borrowed the Golden and Tucker amounts there was nothing in the list to indicate that the money came from the Department of the Controller. Mr. Howley also pointed out Miss Miller's statement in reference to the \$40 per month board allowance did not coincide with certain relevant dates. Miss Miller's whole story, he said, was based on the need of funds for the office, but according to the books in Nov. 19, 1920, there should be \$1,000 in the cash book.

The COMMISSIONER pointed out to Mr. Howley that the story told by the cash book was valueless.
MR. HOWLEY then referred to the story of the mysterious system of marking the cheque stubs, and pointed out that according to Miss Miller's own statement a list of all the transactions were kept in the ledger, where it could be viewed by anyone in the office. Referring again to Mr. Meany, Counsel said that the evidence showed that if Mr. Richard had been prepared to make Meany full Controller he (Meany) would have made a deal with him. But Sir Richard had never suggested a compromise for a moment. Mr. Howley, concluding, said he regretted he was unable to get a statement of the conditions existing at the Controller's Department at the time when Mr. Meany left there. The COMMISSIONER pointed out that he had made application to him.

Q—Now we have heard that there was practically no stock-taking ever made during that period?
A—No, sir.
Q—And I don't know whether you were able to determine whether there was any shortage of stock?
A—I can't determine actually whether there was a shortage, but my investigation suggested to me that there was a shortage.
Q—The result of your investigation is there must have been a shortage during that period?
A—Yes.

Q—That shortage may have been accounted for in many ways. We know from Mr. Meany's evidence, as regards stock at any rate, that he was during that period making presents of stock, and that he made, according to his own evidence, no return into the Government account—the Exchequer account—at the Bank of Montreal of any sums he received from sales of liquor other than the sales made from scrips. Can you tell us whether or you considered it to be a large shortage?

A—In my opinion it was a large shortage.
Q—Very well. Now then the real point I have to determine in this section of the Enquiry is whether you could discover any sums which should have been paid into the Treasury, which were not paid into the Treasury, but were in fact paid out to private individuals. Could you discover in your investigation, any sums which should have been paid into the Treasury, but which were not, and which were paid to private individuals?

A—From the fact of there being a shortage or an apparent shortage, one concludes that money which ought to have been paid in was not paid in, but I have no means what was of saying to whom the money was paid.

Q—Was the shortage in money or in stock? Could you have told which it was?
A—No, it is impossible to say.
Q—And you would not know of any instance of it. Of course, we have had evidence from Mr. Meany of a shortage of stock and also of a shortage of money. I don't know if you have any means of determining how much that covers, and it is not part of my duty to enquire as regards shortages in stock. But if you had discovered any case in which money appeared to have been paid out to individuals instead of going into the account, I should have been compelled to make a full enquiry into the matter.

A—I have made no such discovery, sir.
COMMISSIONER—I have asked these questions for myself, and of course it is not the right of anybody to cross-examine upon any questions that I have asked, but in order that there may be no difficulty in this matter, if you, Mr. Howley, wish to ask Mr. Watson any questions on it, I shall give you full permission to do so.

MR. HOWLEY—I would just like, with your permission, to ask one question, sir.

COMMISSIONER—You have my permission to ask any question.
MR. HOWLEY—Thank you, sir. (To witness) Mr. Watson, you have said that in your opinion the shortage in that department amounted to a very large sum or amount, would you be good enough to state what in your opinion was the amount of that shortage?

WITNESS—(To Commissioner)—May I refer to my records, sir?
COMMISSIONER—Oh, I think so.

WITNESS—I shall have to qualify my answer to that, sir, and tell the Court the way I have arrived at it. What I have to tell you is this: I have checked liquors from the Bond Store into the Retail Store for the quantities over that period. I then made a calculation to show what that liquor should realize in money during that period if it were all sold. The calculation is not quite complete, because it is impossible to check the stock in the retail department at the beginning and at the end of the period. That stock is not large, it would not be more than \$20,000.00.

COMMISSIONER—Then you can give a sort of maximum figure for it?
A—Yes, I can give a maximum figure.

Q—You can give a maximum and a minimum, and with those two figures you can give some idea of the shortage, no doubt?
A—Supposing the stock had all been sold, I make the shortage \$200,000.00, but of course if there is a shortage in liquor there would be no profit on that portion of it.

Q—Well then that is the most that the shortage can be?
A—That is the most.
Q—What is the least, do you think?
A—The least probably would be somewhere about \$100,000.

Q—\$200,000 is roughly, we shall say, the largest figure and \$100,000 is the least?
A—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—The actual amount then seems somewhere between \$100,000 and \$200,000.
A—That is my opinion, yes.

Q—And that amount covers the period of 1921-22 and 23?
A—That is so.

COMMISSIONER—He says from June, 1921 to June 1923. That is, two years.
MR. HOWLEY—is that your report to the Government that you quoted from?

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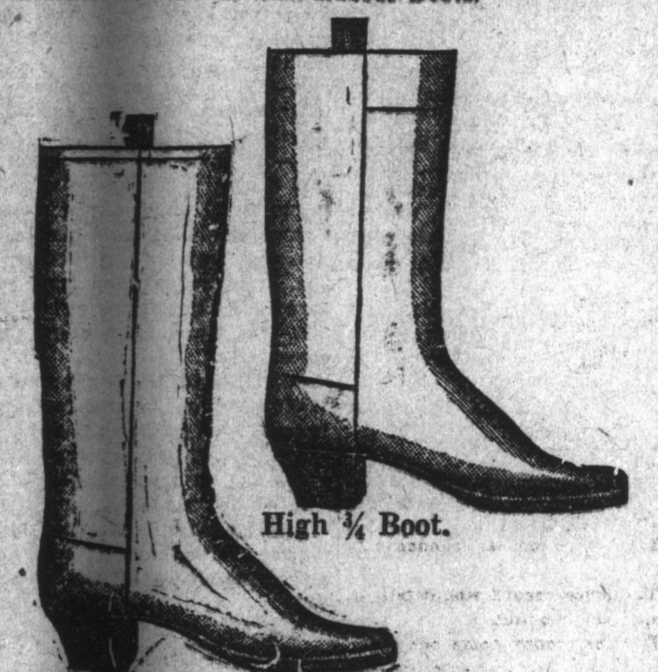
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Bank of Nova Scotia?

A—Yes.

Q—You are also director of the British Empire Steel Corporation?

A—Yes, and of all its subsidiaries.

COMMISSIONER—And Director of the Bank of Nova Scotia?

A—Yes.

MR. WARREN—Are you a great personal friend of Sir Richard Squires?

A—We were business friends. At least, he went in the Law School in Halifax, and I lectured there for a time. He has been at my house and my firm's business agencies in Halifax, and when I was down here in 1920, Sir Richard Squires was Premier and was exceptionally kind to us. I may say we were friends, Mr. Attorney; it began in a business way.

Q—You said you were down here in 1920, I think?

A—Yes.

Q—In May or June?

A—The end of May and the beginning of June.

Q—Who came with you, Mr. McInnis?

A—Mr. D. H. McDougall who was at that time President of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company. Mr. Gillis and Mr. Chambers, the two superintendents at Wabana were here before we came.

COMMISSIONER—You met the two Mr. Chambers here?

A—I can only recall meeting one.

Q—You remember seeing one of them?

A—Yes, I think the other is the

resident superintendent. This Mr. R. E. Chambers, to whom I refer, was a director of Scotia, an old fact he is the man who laid out Wabana; he was the chief engineer there.

MR. WARREN—What was your business and the business of your associates here then, Mr. McInnis?

A—I think I had better describe how I came down. Just at that time, steps were taken for a merger of the Dominion Companies—Dominion Coal and Dominion Steel—and the Nova Scotia Coal and Steel Company, the merger had not been consummated, but its organization was outlined, and Mr. McDougall was to be in charge of operations; that is, Mr. D. H. McDougall. There were telegrams received from the Government of Newfoundland (I don't know if I saw any of them) that the House was about closing, and it was necessary for some person to go to settle the terms of a new agreement between the Steel Companies and the Government as to the export of ore; and Mr. McDougall being the man in charge (it was he who arranged the first contract) he was delegated to go. I was working about this merger at the time, and the president of the company asked me to go with Mr. McDougall, as Mr. McDougall wanted me in case some legal difficulties might arise; and I went, as adviser with Mr. McDougall.

COMMISSIONER—There was no difference between the two companies in this matter?

(Continued on Page 10.)

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