

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

(Continued from page 5.)

thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). You say it was actually paid in cash from time to time, and I suppose you deposited the amounts to your profit account in the Bank of Montreal?

A—Yes, to cover any overdraft there might have been.

Q—Against the cheques you had given?

A—Yes.

Q—Because somebody owed you the \$21,000.00?

A—Yes.

Q—Do you remember if you were paid the whole amount at one time or in various amounts?

A—I would be paid in various amounts from time to time.

Q—And you went and deposited it?

A—Yes.

Q—Your pass books would show the deposits?

A—Yes.

Q—Who was keeping the cash at the time that you got those amounts?

A—Miss Miller.

Q—So that although Mr. Fraser took over the cash from some date in April, and Miss Miller's Power of Attorney was cancelled, she still continued to act as cashier?

A—Well, I could not say the exact date that Mr. Fraser took care of the affairs.

Q—You were not satisfied with Miss Miller, keeping the cash, and you got Mr. Fraser down from Halifax?

A—Yes.

Q—And in spite of your not being satisfied with Miss Miller, and in spite of the fact that Mr. Fraser came down from Halifax, Miss Miller was still cashier?

COMMISSIONER—You still got cash from Miss Miller?

A—Yes.

MR. WARREN—Any large amounts such as a thousand dollars at a time?

A—No, I don't think ever as large as that.

Q—What was the largest?

A—Enough for the cheque of Brown's Insurance, \$785.00.

Q—So Miss Miller gave you \$785.00 cheque on account of Arch Brown's Insurance?

A—Yes.

(Cross-examined by Mr. Howley.)

Q—You say Brown conducted a little business and these various accounts would be to supply his goods?

A—Yes.

Q—After his fire, when his place was destroyed, his stock was destroyed; he was practically penniless except for his insurance money coming to him?

A—Yes.

Q—Was there any discussion with any of these creditors about advancing him goods to begin business over again?

A—I could not say.

Q—Do you recollect whether any of the advance payments to creditors were made for the purpose of getting those creditors to advance goods?

COMMISSIONER—I call that a leading question.

MR. HOWLEY—Perhaps it is, Sir.

WITNESS—I don't recollect it.

MR. HOWLEY—Could you tell me also during the period that you were making those payments, I think you said that Miss Miller was cash keeper and Mr. Fraser came in to take her duties as cash keeper and accountant. And all the recoupments of cash, you got from the office were from Miss Miller?

A—I would not swear that they all came from Miss Miller, they may have come from Mr. Fraser, some of them.

Q—Did you at this period exercise

firm account and be separate from Sir Richard's affairs?

A—Yes.

Q—But you did not do that because you noticed things in the counterfoils? How did you become aware of that?

A—I had no power of attorney.

Q—How did you become aware of that account?

A—I asked when I went there if there was a firm account.

Q—Whom did you ask?

A—Miss Miller.

Q—She had the power of attorney?

A—Yes.

Q—And all cheques would have to be signed by her while Squires was away?

A—No, I have not. I could not find it.

Q—I think you told us in your examination in chief what you assumed office?

A—Yes.

Q—It was on the 20th of August.

A—I think. To the best of my ability that was the time.

Q—Prior to your assumption to office of Controller, what occupation did you follow?

A—I was interested in political affairs. I was what you would call a local politician.

COMMISSIONER—Politics are all very well but they are not very interesting. How did you earn your living?

A—I was up to September 1919 a telegraph operator and incidentally a newspaper correspondent.

Q—And in September 1919 you vacated your office in the Postal Telegraphs to become a politician?

A—Yes. And a newspaper correspondent.

MR. HOWLEY—You have been a newspaper correspondent before?

A—Yes.

Q—I think in the General election of November 1919 you were a candidate?

A—I was.

Q—An unsuccessful candidate?

A—I was.

Q—From the time of the result of that election to the time of your appointment as Acting Controller, what were you engaged at?

A—I was with the newspapers. The Daily Star.

Q—Did you receive a salary?

A—I received a weekly salary of \$35.00.

Q—And that occupation was until you became Acting Controller?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—And that continued until you became Acting Controller?

A—Yes.

Q—Was that your only source of income?

A—I used to receive payment from foreign newspaper correspondents. It would be so much a column.

Q—\$35 for a week here and you other papers and more money for contributions to local papers. Did you contribute to others than the Daily Star just then?

A—No. Not at that time.

MR. HOWLEY—During that time your earnings efforts were confined to the Daily Star and the foreign papers?

A—Yes.

Q—Your earnings from foreign papers would vary with the amount of material you sent them?

A—No. With the amount that was accepted.

Q—When you became Acting Controller was there a salary fixed for that position, and if there was what was the salary?

A—to the best of my knowledge it was \$2,600.00 a year. But I am speaking subject to correction.

Q—Favorable how?

A—By monthly cheques.

Q—Equal monthly cheques?

A—Yes, Sir.

COMMISSIONER—Did you cease to do your journalistic work when you became Controller?

A—Not immediately.

Q—Did you cease your salary employment with the "Daily Star"?

A—Yes. That ceased.

Q—But you still continued to do work with the other papers?

A—Yes. Mostly foreign.

Q—Did you at any time after you became Acting Controller or whilst you were Acting Controller engage in any other business that added to your income?

A—I did.

Q—When did that engagement first begin?

A—If you name any one of them I could tell you. I would like to know to which you refer.

J. T. Meaney, Cross-Examined by Mr. Howley.

MR. MEANEY—I would like to know to which you refer.

COMMISSIONER—I do not know. The question is general at present. You gave up the appointment at the Star when you became Acting Controller. Did you then have any other sources of augmenting your income?

WITNESS—You mean, when I became Acting Controller, did I begin any other business. I cannot recollect any real business transaction I entered into. That is any business to do into no business.

COMMISSIONER—What I mean is this. Did you have any sources of augmenting your income after you became Acting Controller other than your salary, and writing these illuminating articles for the foreign newspapers.

WITNESS—Mr. Howley asked me if I entered into any business. I entered into any business. I entered into no business.

COMMISSIONER—In what way did you augment your income?

WITNESS—There were perquisites coming through my department.

Q—Do you mean the Controller's Department?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—You had certain perquisites, as you term them. Did you have any other method of augmenting your income?

A—I did not augment my income by any other method.

MR. HOWLEY—Well did these perquisites operate from the time you first took up the appointment?

A—Pretty soon after.

Q—Were these perquisites recognized by the Government as belonging to your department?

A—I do not know what the Government would consider.

COMMISSIONER—Perhaps you could tell us what were these perquisites?

WITNESS—I received certain gratitudes from the people from whom I purchased liquor for the department.

COMMISSIONER—That is what you mean by perquisites?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—From whom did you get these gratuities. From the agents of the manufacturers from whom you got the liquor?

A—Yes.

Q—Not from the people who bought from you?

A—No. From the people who sold to me.

Q—When did that system of gratuities commence?

A—Pretty soon after I entered.

Q—Was it in existence before you came in?

A—I would have no way of knowing whether it was or not.

MR. HOWLEY—Did it imply to the first purchase after you took office?

A—I do not think so. I am not quite sure.

Q—But after you had been a short while in office this system of obtaining gratuities from agents began?

A—Yes.

Q—And it continued during your term?

A—Right to the end of my term.

Q—Now, could you fix for us a little more definitely when this commenced?

A—I could not fix it. I cannot recollect whether I received a gratuity on the first purchase.

Q—How long was it after you entered before you made the first purchase?

A—I do not really know. The records of the Department would show that.

Q—Did these gratuities amount to very much?

A—Yes. Quite considerable.

Q—Would that amount in the course of a year to as much again as your regular income?

A—Oh, Yes.

Q—Could you give us any idea to what the amount would be?

A—I can not.

Q—Would they vary from year to year, or from period to period?

A—They would according to the purchasing of stocks.

COMMISSIONER—On a percentage basis?

A—Not quite. The way it would be done would be fixed by the people who paid it.

Q—What would you say, all told, with your salary of \$2,600.00, and these perquisites and the profits of these illuminating articles, would be your income?

A—I do not know really. I could not give you any idea of the actual figure because I never kept an account.

COMMISSIONER—We do not expect you to go within a dollar, or even within ten dollars, or a hundred dollars. Can you tell us about how many thousands of dollars?

A—I think the whole thing amounted in one year to about \$10,000.00.

Q—Approximately?

A—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—That would include the salary and your perquisites and your returns for newspaper articles?

A—Yes.

Q—Would that apply to your first six months of office? What I mean is would your income for the first six months be \$5,000.00?

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(Continued on page 7.)