

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

(Continued from page 5.)

thousand dollars (\$33,000.00). 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 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 a 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

any control over the office cash yourself?

A—No.

Q—The office cash and the office accounting was entirely in the hands of Miss Miller, and after Mr. Fraser came in he joined with her in those duties?

A—Yes.

Q—And after she went, he took control of the entire business?

A—Yes.

Q—Every time you received cash you received it from Miss Miller or Mr. Fraser?

A—Yes.

Q—Did you at any time receive cash from Miss Miller with a knowledge of where she had obtained that cash?

A—What time?

COMMISSIONER—Had you any idea when Miss Miller gave you cash, had you any idea where she got it from?

A—I thought she got it from the cash box.

Q—Presumably she got it from the box, but have you any idea how she got in the box?

A—I thought it was office receipts.

Q—The office receipts would have to be very large?

A—Well, we did a large business, we collected in large insurance premiums.

Q—You would have to have a very large trade to account for your outgoings?

A—Some of the rents would be four hundred dollars.

Q—You only knew that it came out of the cash box, and it was represented to be insurance payments and rents?

A—Yes.

Q—Yes, because sometimes I would get the original cheques that would come in.

MR. HOWLEY—There were various sources of revenue in the office; there were insurance premiums and rents?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—And occasionally I suppose debts paid?

A—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—I dare say, Sir, you see the form of question I would like to ask. May I ask the witness?

COMMISSIONER—You mean with reference to Mr. Meaney? Yes, you may ask him if he knows anything?

MR. HOWLEY—Q—Mr. Curtis, do you know or did you know at any time during this series of transactions that any of the moneys which Miss Miller paid to you had been received by him or by the office from Mr. Meaney?

A—I did not.

Q—Did Miss Miller ever say to you or give you any statements or information as to the fact that she had been getting moneys in the office from Mr. Meaney?

A—I did not.

COMMISSIONER—I have no evidence before me that Mr. Curtis was aware of these matters at all. At present it has not been suggested that Mr. Curtis was a party to getting money from the Department of Controller.

MR. HOWLEY—Then you had no knowledge of the transactions at all?

A—No. In the early part of the year there would be money coming in all the time. Naturally there would be a lot of money around during April and May there would naturally be a lot of cash around.

COMMISSIONER—It was all due to your different clients. It is not firm's money?

A—No, of course.

Q—Of course what?

A—Of course our commission would have to come out of that.

Q—You would be paid for your trouble but the bulk of the money you would have to account for it to your clients?

A—Yes.

MR. WARREN—I would like to have it clearly understood that there are many questions which might be necessary to ask this witness, but my friend has undertaken to call this witness again.

MR. HOWLEY—Might I say that I would like to ask the witness about the account he was talking about. It is a loose leaf ledger. I should like to ask Mr. Curtis where it is.

WITNESS—It would be left in charge of Mr. Fraser.

COMMISSIONER—You will be free now so there is a nice little job for you to go and look for it.

MR. WINTER—At this period I would like to recall Mrs. Harman to correct a mistake she made in regard to some of her evidence.

COMMISSIONER—What portion of the evidence is it?

A—It is in connection with the amount of the notes due.

COMMISSIONER—Let her be recalled and tell us what it is.

MR. WINTER—I was also going to ask; we are prepared to examine her further on account of the Brown episode.

COMMISSIONER—I think that will be better when I have seen the ledger, but I think at the present time we will leave that alone.

COMMISSIONER—There is a matter we want you to take your memory back to. It seems you were not quite clear about the notes that were current and coming at the time when Sir Richard Squires left for England in 1920. There were some notes he was expecting indirectly and which had to be provided for. There was a question about the amount of them and the way you arranged it with your brother.

What is the story?

A—The two notes were for twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

Q—That is the total of the two?

A—Yes. One was for the Daily Star (\$14,000.00), and the other was for Richard Mercer (\$6,000.00).

Q—What about those notes?

A—Mr. Glennie sent for me and told me that unless a deposit of enough to cover the notes was made he would send for Sir Richard.

Q—He sent for you I remember you told us that. Did you arrange anything about it with your brother?

A—I think I crossed to Bell Island and my brother put through a note for \$20,000.00, and I signed it; and I think it was endorsed by Mr. McDonald or my brother.

Q—His note was for \$20,000.00?

A—Yes.

Q—You are entitled to make any correction you like on that point?

A—That is all.

MR. MEANEY is recalled.

Cross-examined by MR. HOWLEY.

Q—Have you with you your appointment to the position of Acting Controller?

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 fastening. 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?

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—Q—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—Possible 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 gratuities 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 they would amount to?

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?

(Continued on page 7.)

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