

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

(Continued from page 8.)

MR. LEWIS—Yes, if there is any evidence that any money was paid to him.

MR. HUNT—There is evidence that he was trying to get it. COMMISSIONER—I have ruled upon it. I can only keep on saying what I have said before. I am not receiving this evidence because I am charged with the duty of finding out what happened in 1922, but because I am charged with the duty of finding out what happened in 1920, and the events of 1922 may throw upon the events of 1920 a flood of light upon the previous transactions, and it is right that that should entitle me to receive the evidence of what took place in 1922.

MR. LEWIS—I bow to your Honor's decision. I shall make application later on to have this evidence eliminated from the record.

COMMISSIONER—I decided to receive it because in my judgment it may throw a great deal of light upon the previous transactions. It is one continuous effort which was sometimes successful.

MR. HUNT—May I say that the evidence is already in the examination in chief of Mr. Miller.

MR. LEWIS—I shall make application to have the evidence eliminated from the record.

COMMISSIONER—I shall rule in the same way.

Q.—Did you have any consultations or conversations with Sir Richard at the Ritz Carlton in Montreal?

A.—Yes.

MR. HUNT—The two of you met at the Ritz Carlton in Montreal, did you not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What was the conversation?

A.—The conversation was first regarding the labour situation at Bell Island; Sir Richard was in Montreal in connection with that matter.

COMMISSIONER—He was in Montreal in connection with that matter?

A.—Yes, sir. I was there to participate with him in that matter with Mr. McDougall on the one hand and also to open negotiations with Mr. McDougall.

Q.—You are being asked what was the conversation?

A.—We discussed the labour trouble at Bell Island and we then discussed the point of getting money \$100,000.00 from the Besco.

Q.—What was said and by whom?

A.—Sir Richard Squires told me that conversation to the best of my recollection that he desired to obtain some campaign funds and that he thought he could do so through Mr. McDougall but the contribution was to come from Besco and the amount named was \$100,000.00.

MR. HUNT—Who named that amount?

A.—Sir Richard Squires.

Q.—What else was said, anything?

A.—There may have been other conversations in that way.

COMMISSIONER—What did you say about it?

A.—I said I would bring it before Mr. McDougall.

MR. HUNT—How was it that these matters came within your knowledge or scope at all?

A.—I was requested through Mr. Miller who told me that he came direct from Sir Richard, the day Sir Richard was leaving to go away, to get ready to go to Montreal and to meet Sir Richard there. The reason I had to give to get leave of absence was that my daughter who was then in Montreal at school was sick.

MR. HUNT—Was she sick?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You say you undertook to see Mr. McDougall, did you see him or anybody?

A.—I saw him.

Q.—Where?

A.—In his office in the Canada Cement Building, Montreal.

Q.—When?

A.—The day following my conversation with Sir Richard.

Q.—What was the conversation with Mr. McDougall?

A.—First about the Bell Island labour matter, but that was disposed of, I told him my mission regarding the obtaining of money; I told him that Sir Richard Squires desired to obtain some campaign funds and I told him the amount and I told him

that the prospects of having the Wolvin-Coaker Contract amended were good; that was to be the consideration for the money.

Q.—What, if anything, did Mr. McDougall say to that?

A.—Mr. McDougall, to the best of my recollection the words used were, "Do you mean \$100,000.00 in addition to the \$51,000.00 already given?"

Q.—The amount already given was stated as \$51,000.00?

A.—Those were the words he used at that time.

Q.—What did you say?

A.—I said yes, that was understood.

Q.—What did he say?

A.—He shook his head and regarded it as a pretty exorbitant demand.

MR. JENKS—Is that what he said?

COMMISSIONER—Did he say it?

A.—I think he used the words but that was the understanding that it was too big a sum.

MR. HUNT—What else was said, if anything?

A.—The conversation. He said the matter of the \$100,000.00 he would have to refer to the Directors. He also expressed the opinion that they would not be adverse to a small contribution if circumstances warranted but he thought it would be somewhat difficult to get the company to contribute up to the \$100,000.00.

Q.—Was anything else said?

A.—I asked Mr. McDougall what he considered a fair contribution and he said about \$15,000.00 or \$20,000.00.

Q.—What did you say to that?

A.—I don't know what reply I made to him but I related our conversation to Sir Richard at our next meeting.

COMMISSIONER—How long after?

A.—That afternoon or the next day. It was on the evening of Sir Richard's departure from Montreal to New York. I am not sure of that. He went either that afternoon or the next.

Q.—Where did you meet him?

A.—At the Ritz Carlton.

Q.—Where were you staying?

A.—At the Ritz Carlton.

MR. HUNT—What did he say?

A.—My recollection is that we decided; or he said we will let the matter stand for the present. That was my understanding and we would get on with the labour problem.

Q.—Did you see anybody else there during your stay after seeing Sir Richard the second time?

A.—I saw Mr. McDougall, several times after that and the question of campaign funds was brought up by me with Mr. McDougall.

Q.—What else was said?

A.—I renewed the conversation with McDougall about the contributions as that was my principal business there and the final conversation we had about it to my recollection, the amendment of the contract was discussed again and Mr. McDougall seemed to be favourable.

Q.—I just want to know what Mr. McDougall said?

A.—I cannot tell the exact words.

MR. JENKS—He said "he seemed favourable."

A.—He said he was favourable to a contribution if the desired amendment was made to the contract, but until that was done he could not personally recommend any payment.

MR. HUNT—Do you remember when he said it?

A.—Some time subsequent to Sir Richard's departure for New York. I had been up and back from New York several times with memos from one to the other. I think it was four trips from Montreal to New York.

COMMISSIONER—From Sir Richard to Mr. McDougall and from Mr. McDougall to Sir Richard?

A.—Yes.

MR. HUNT—Do you remember when Sir Richard went from Montreal to New York?

A.—Between the 27th and 28th December. I am not sure of the date.

Q.—Do you remember when you left?

A.—I went there the day following Sir Richard's going and I took a memo regarding the resumption of work at Bell Island, and to my recollection the matter of the revision of the contract was also mentioned.

Q.—Where did you stay in New York?

A.—At the Waldorf Astoria.

Q.—Where did Sir Richard stay?

A.—At the same hotel.

Q.—Did you meet him in the Waldorf Astoria?

A.—I met him very often at the Waldorf Astoria during that period.

Q.—How long were you in Montreal or New York; how long were you away from St. John's?

A.—I left on the 21st December and returned I think about the 22nd January. Sir Richard returned on the same steamer from Halifax.

Q.—What were those trips between Montreal and New York for?

A.—The subject of the resumption of the work at Bell Island was under discussion with Sir Richard and Mr. McDougall.

COMMISSIONER—Was it the resumption of the labour trouble?

A.—The resumption of work.

COMMISSIONER—Yes, the resumption of work, I mean.

Q.—That was the subject of memos that were exchanged between Sir Richard and Mr. McDougall?

A.—Yes, I took them from New York to Montreal and from Montreal to New York.

MR. HUNT—Was this your only business in Montreal and New York?

A.—The principal business I went there was in connection with obtaining money.

Q.—I mean the BESCO in all its phases; that was your only business?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Under whose orders were you there?

A.—At the request of Premier Squires.

COMMISSIONER—At the request of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, purporting to have come from Sir Richard.

A.—Yes, that is so.

MR. HUNT—You did in fact act as a go-between between Sir Richard and Mr. McDougall?

A.—Yes, with Sir Richard's approval he gave me official standing with Mr. McDougall by entrusting to me his memos on this business.

Q.—Did anything happen upon your return home or soon afterwards?

A.—You would permit me to refer to a question you asked me a little while ago. Before leaving Montreal my last interview with Mr. McDougall, it was understood between us that if the amendment—

COMMISSIONER—I don't like so much "understood between us." What did he say?

A.—Mr. McDougall said if the suggested amendments were put through he would be prepared to recommend the payment of the money.

Q.—Of the whole?

A.—Just the payment of the money.

MR. HUNT—I think this is the first time you have stated in your evidence the "amendments"; what amendments were they?

A.—The striking out or the elimination of two of the principal clauses of the Wolvin-Coaker contract; these clauses dealing with some expenditures which the company were obliged to make in Newfoundland.

COMMISSIONER—Are you familiar with the contract?

A.—I have seen it.

Q.—Could you tell me if I put it into your hands which clauses they are?

A.—Yes.

(Commissioner hands contract to witness.)

MR. HUNT—Upon your return home, was anything done by you in connection with this "Besco" matter?

A.—After the House of Assembly had opened, in March, I think, I wired Mr. D. H. McDougall and drew his attention to the result of our conversations in Montreal, and asked him if he was prepared to carry out the agreement discussed between McDougall and myself in the event of the clauses being eliminated by the Legislature. That was my message.

MR. LEWIS—Was it a letter?

WITNESS—No, it was a message.

COMMISSIONER—Can you produce your message?

A.—No, I can produce this reply.

MR. LEWIS—I don't think he ought to be allowed to read it.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. Meany, we shall have your reply.

WITNESS—This is the reply received from Mr. E. H. McDougall, March 29th, 1922.

COMMISSIONER—Let me look at it.

(Document produced to Commissioner.)

COMMISSIONER—I shall hand it to you in a minute, Mr. Lewis. (Reading) "Trouton, N.B., March 29th, 1922. This is what it says: 'J. T. Meany, St. John's. Reference your cable 27th we are prepared to carry out our part arrangement made in Montreal whenever matter finally completed. See details telegram Gillis to Miller to-day.' D. H. McDougall."

MR. LEWIS—May I suggest that if this is to go in, we ought to have the letter received or the cable referred to in it read also.

COMMISSIONER—But this witness has not got it.

MR. LEWIS—Then it must be in the possession of the Besco people. Could they be asked to produce it?

COMMISSIONER—The main thing with regard to the Besco people is that they are not in Newfoundland. And the letter was not addressed to the general representatives, it was addressed only to Mr. D. H. McDougall. Mr. Jenks, will you please tell us if you can get it?

MR. JENKS—Mr. McDougall is now in Vancouver, sir, but I think he would like it possible to be here. I shall endeavour to get him here, and also any correspondence he has on the matter.

COMMISSIONER—Has and effort been made to get him here?

MR. JENKS—No, sir, because we

did not anticipate this. I don't know that it is possible for Mr. McDougall to come, under the circumstances.

COMMISSIONER—Would he be willing to come, do you think?

MR. JENKS—I have no doubt he would be willing, but whether it is possible or not may be another matter. All we can do is let him know.

COMMISSIONER—And if he can come, we shall be very glad, and ask him to bring all letters and telegrams he received from Mr. Miller, or from Mr. Meany, or from Sir Richard Squires with him.

MR. JENKS—I intend to do that, sir.

COMMISSIONER—Also any messages he may have received from anybody else with regard to this matter. I would be glad if you would ask him to look up any messages or any documents forwarded him in connection with any of those matters.

MR. JENKS—Certainly.

MR. LEWIS—In the meantime, if I may be permitted, this being only a copy.

COMMISSIONER—No; this is the original which he claims to have received. (To Witness) Is this the original of the message you received?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—I shall hand it down then, so that it can be marked and put in.

MR. LEWIS—Would it not be possible to first secure a copy of the message sent from St. John's?

WITNESS—It is possible, but I obtained no copies here. That is the message that was delivered to me.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. Lewis means I think a copy of the message you sent from here.

WITNESS (To Mr. Lewis) I beg your pardon, sir.

COMMISSIONER—You sent a telegram on the 27th and received an answer on the 29th?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What Mr. Lewis wishes to get is a copy of the message you sent which produced this answer. We could only be made certain as to what this message means by the production of the message Mr. McDougall received. Is there a copy in the office here of the wire you sent?

WITNESS—I don't think it would be possible to obtain a copy, because our records in the Post Office are destroyed every year.

COMMISSIONER—I know that in England where there are such a large number of telegrams sent the post office people only keep them for a certain number of months—six or what ever period it is, and then they are destroyed and you can't get them after that.

WITNESS—It is the same here, sir.

COMMISSIONER—This message being sent two years ago, I don't know if it is possible for you to get it.

A.—No, sir. I don't think it can be obtained.

MR. LEWIS—Then may I ask that the marking of this message in evidence be left until they get the other message. I think it would be better to defer doing it in evidence until we have the whole story.

COMMISSIONER—I think I shall take it now. I really give very little information. It says "We are prepared to carry out our part of arrangements made in Montreal." It does not say anything as to what these arrangements were.

WITNESS—May I be permitted to say I know.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. Meany, Mr. Lewis—if he cares to do so—may ask you what the arrangements were that are referred to in this message. We are not bound to do so, and I don't think we can ask you for the moment.

MR. HUNT—The main reason we bring it in is to show that Mr. McDougall did communicate with Mr. Meany in connection with these matters.

COMMISSIONER—Obviously he did. It is quite clear that at that time—in

March, 1922—Mr. McDougall was communicating with Mr. Meany, and further was communicating with him with reference to transactions in Montreal the previous winter. As to what was the nature of the transactions this telegram does not enlighten us.

MR. HUNT—That was March 29th. Did anything happen after that?

MR. LEWIS—I object to this question.

MR. HUNT—I mean in connection with this Besco?

COMMISSIONER—Or what is the next thing that happened as regards Sir Richard Squires. Put it that way, if you like.

WITNESS—I have no recollection of anything further in connection with Sir Richard.

COMMISSIONER—There were no further telegrams as far as you know?

A.—No, I know of telegrams to other people in connection with it—Mr. Gillis.

MR. HUNT—Well then, when did you next have anything to do with Sir Richard, or Besco, or anybody in connection with this Bell Island business?

WITNESS—Do you mean directly with Sir Richard?

Q.—Directly with matters bearing on these people.

MR. LEWIS—I object. You are speaking of this \$100,000.00 matter?

MR. HUNT—No. (To witness) Did anything happen at all in connection with the Besco business?

WITNESS—Yes, I had no correspondence directly with Sir Richard about it and no conversation about it in that year until the fall of 1923 or January 1923.

COMMISSIONER—The matter seems to have slept for a time.

MR. HUNT—Mr. Meany, some time elapses between the fall of 1923 and the month of January, 1923. Can you fix the date more closely than that? We have left March, 1922, as I understand it and we are coming now to the fall of 1923 or January, 1923. In the interval had you communications with Miller?

MR. LEWIS—I don't think he should be allowed to talk about his communications with Mr. Miller.

COMMISSIONER—You told us, Mr. Meany, that in the fall of 1923 or in January, 1923, some other step was taken?

WITNESS—A request was made to me.

MR. LEWIS—By whom?

A.—By Mr. Miller and his sister.

Q.—Did they purport to be asking you on their own account or anybody else's account?

A.—On behalf of Sir Richard Squires.

COMMISSIONER—They purported to be asking on behalf of Sir Richard?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—I think I must have this, Mr. Lewis, as to what they asked him.

MR. LEWIS—Subject to my objection then, I presume.

MR. HUNT—What did they ask you?

WITNESS—They asked me to get ready to go to Montreal, that it was Sir Richard's desire I should go.

COMMISSIONER—"They asked me to get ready to go to Montreal."

MR. HUNT—You were still Controller, I think?

A.—Yes, I made an application for leave of absence.

COMMISSIONER—Did you get it?

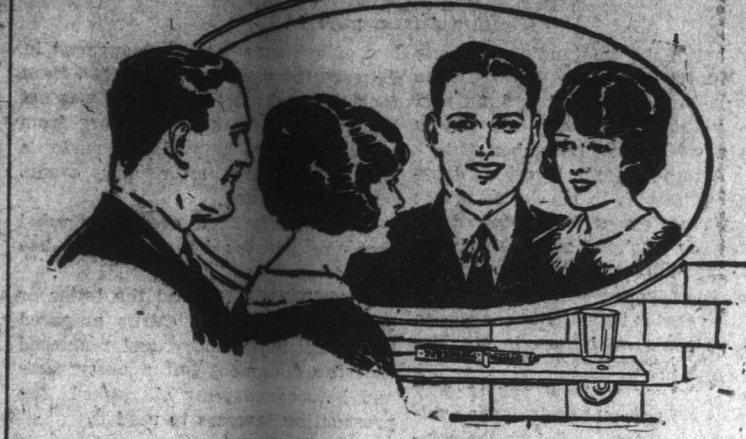
A.—I did, sir.

MR. HUNT—Do you remember when you received this leave of absence?

A.—I had a carbon copy of my application there which might be able to fix the date. It must have been early in January, 1923.

Q.—They told you to get ready to go to Montreal, that Sir Richard wanted you to go. Did they tell you it is quite clear that at that time—in

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