

The Budget—Mr. Blackmore

the case of Lieutenant Stuart Brown, and I had asked several questions of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the government concerning this unfortunate man. I had also read into *Hansard* excerpts from an article written by Lieutenant Stuart Brown entitled, "They put me in Essondale."

This article appeared in the *Sunday Sun* magazine of Vancouver, the issue of January 8, 1949. I quote from it as follows:

In 1927 I was a law-abiding citizen of Vancouver, partner in the building firm of Saunders and Brown, and at the same time employed as a real estate salesman for the firm of Waghorn, Gwyn and Company.

That year I entered Shaughnessy hospital to be treated for neurasthenia (nerves) and gunshot wounds. If treated for neurasthenia I might—in fact, most surely would—become pensionable. On the other hand a mental diagnosis would nullify entitlement to a war pension.

It was the general practice of the then medical superintendent at Shaughnessy to eradicate entitlement to pensions by any means possible. Such practice eventually led to his death at the hands of Tim Sargood by shooting.

And so the inference of insanity in my case started.

As I am quite normal, some means must be found to upset me—or my grounds.

And further down he says:

Through a pal came the first intimation of my wife's infidelity and the nature of the tie-up with this man. I phoned her on a Saturday night, asking her to eject him from our house, at the same time saying I would be home Sunday for tea. Instead of ejecting her boy friend she consulted the doctor, and from the South Vancouver police blotter this item is taken:

"Doctor Jones, Shaughnessy hospital, Fair 6000, reports a Lieutenant Brown, of 309 Slocan street, who is a patient at the hospital, went home today and threatened to kill his wife with a knife. Dr. Jones states this man is most likely to commit this act and would like him picked up and held at the station, and arrangements will be made to take him to Essondale. At this time Sergeant P. C. McKay and P.C. Lloyd brought to station Lieutenant Brown, requested by Dr. Jones, Shaughnessy hospital, to be picked up."

Here were the first illegal processes by the pensions department: (1) No warrant sworn; (2) no entry could be made into my house without a warrant.

The item about the knife is absurd. I did not even see my wife and her boy friend, who were down at the doctor's, and if I intended any real damage I owned a German Luger and a 16-gauge gun. Why use a messy knife?

Another quotation reads:

A sworn affidavit by George Watson, visitor at my house, states:

"I beg to state he was in a normal condition during his visit and conducted himself properly up to the time he left with the police officers."

A. McKay the policeman making the arrest, states:

"So far as I was able to judge, Brown was in a normal condition and conducted himself properly."

And Mrs. George Watson says:

"He was in a normal condition, and chatted and passed pleasantries with myself and husband in his usual cheery manner until the officers arrived."

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Still another quotation reads:

From the jail I was taken to ward X, the jail ward at Vancouver general hospital. I knew Dr. Ansley Seymour, intern of the hospital, so sent for him to come down, and through him I got hold of Dr. B. D. Gillies, who came to see me.

Dr. Gillies righted matters at once, and I was returned to Shaughnessy, but my clothes were taken from me. Instead of acting reasonably, the Shaughnessy end only intensified matters.

And again:

A couple of days later the doctor brought to my bedside legal papers to separate me from my wife—and making over to her all our assets—which he ordered me to sign. I refused. Next morning two orderlies escorted me down to the doctor's office where he had a lawyer to enforce my signature. This lawyer, a splendid chap, Mr. Herb Drost, upon my explanation dropped the matter at once. In a written statement over his signature concerning the events, which he certifies as taking place February 8, 1927, he states, speaking of myself:

"He did appear a little excited, due perhaps to the fact, as he explained, that his clothing had been taken from him so that he could not leave the hospital, and he was not permitted to reach friends even by telephone. But I must say that during my whole interview with him he did not show any indication of what I would term insanity or mental derangement of any nature."

On February 9, the next day, I was sent to Essondale for incarceration, the date being certified in a document signed by H. G. Baxter, of the Shaughnessy staff. There I was, as a sane competent person, asked to sign legal papers one day, sent to the asylum the next. The late Chief Justice Auley Morrison, in commenting upon this point, stated very clearly to me that such a procedure would not hold good in any court of justice, if it were questioned.

It might be well to state here that I have some fifty-odd signed statements, some sworn to, and along the lines of the following letter from my then partner testifying as to my sane condition at that time:

"I have been closely associated with Mr. Stuart Brown for the past eighteen months, during which time we have worked together in the contracting business. In all this time I have found him an agreeable companion and a keen business associate, and I am altogether at a loss to understand on what grounds a board of doctors could pronounce him insane or in any way a fit subject for incarceration at Essondale."

"I may say that while he was at Essondale I had occasion to transact business with him, and again also during the period of his so-called escape from there, and at all times found him normal. In short, to me it is almost incredible that a man who is able to take his place in the world and earn his living in a normal manner could ever find himself in the predicament that Mr. Brown was in during the summer of 1928."

Mr. Fournier (Maisonnette-Rosemont): Hear, hear.

Mr. Blackmore: I hope that *Hansard* will record the name of the member who has called "hear, hear". It will be good reading for the people of Canada when they see how seriously Liberals take crimes of this kind. The hon. member ought to have one of his own brothers in this kind of fix. He cannot