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

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6.

Mr. McDonald (examined by Mr. Winter).

MR. WINTER—Mr. McDonald, that is signed by yourself and Miller?

Q.—By myself and Miller.

Q.—The Dominion Company's stamp is on it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that stamp on it when you signed it?

A.—No. It was understood that the Company would not have anything to say or to do with what I was doing, and the Company was in no way implicated.

Q.—Do you know what writing "manager" is in?

A.—I guess it is mine.

Q.—Why did you put "Manager" there?

A.—I presume because there were other McDonalds in the Island, and it would be better for my position's sake to put it there.

Q.—Did you put in on your cheques?

A.—No.

Q.—It was unusual thing for you to put the word "manager" on your cheques—on your personal cheques? It was unprecedented.

A.—I had never done it before.

Q.—Then it was unprecedented. I want to know how you came to put the word "manager" on this cheque if the Company was not to be in any way implicated in the matter?

A.—I did not think that it would implicate the Company seeing that the Company's stamp was not on it.

Q.—If the stamp had been there, what would have been the position?

A.—I would not sign it. The Bank was not supposed to accept any note from me except for payrolls, or itemized vouchers, or local supplies. The Bank should not take a note from me for anything else.

Q.—Then the Bank should never have taken that note?

A.—Not with the Dominion Company's seal on it.

Q.—Even with that the Bank ought not to take the note?

A.—No.

COMMISSIONER—That is one of the puzzles that I have to try to solve in this case.

WITNESS—I should imagine the Dominion stamp going on it would kill the note so far as I was concerned, because the Bank had no authority to

take a note from me, except for payroll.

MR. WINTER—You mean it would be quite worthless?

A.—Useless.

Q.—Unless they took it as a personal note?

A.—That was what I intended.

Q.—They had no right to accept this note as the Company's obligation?

A.—Yes. I was fully instructed as to what I could sign, and I presume the Bank had the same instructions as I had.

Q.—And when you signed it you gave it to Miller, I presume?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And it only had your two signatures on it?

A.—So far as I know, I did not know till last week that this stamp was on it.

Q.—If that is so, what are the circumstances, or what is the history of the note that you know about?

A.—I heard about it again about the end of the sixty days. I presume around October.

COMMISSIONER—Just before Mr. Gillis came?

A.—Just about the time he came.

MR. WINTER—What did you hear of it then?

A.—I heard of it by a notice to the Dominion Iron & Steel Company through Mr. Miller. Through the Bank of course.

Q.—The Bank gave a notice to Miller?

COMMISSIONER—The notice came to the Company, he says.

WITNESS—Yes. It came to Miller, of course.

MR. WINTER—Did you see the envelope?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was it directed to the Company?

A.—I understand it was.

Q.—To whom did that notice go?

A.—Mr. Miller opened the letter, and brought it into me, I know.

Q.—He brought it into you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then to whom was the letter addressed, to the Company?

A.—I think it was. I would not swear to that, honestly. I know it must have been when he opened it.

Q.—It certainly was not directed to you?

A.—No, it was not. I know that.

Q.—Did it not strike you as strange

that it was addressed to the Company?

A.—It did.

Q.—Did you look for some explanation?

A.—I did and I did not. Mr. Gillis arrived and I talked the matter over with him. I told him the whole transaction and wanted him to come over and see Glenzie, and extend the note till Sir Richard Squires returned. That was the spirit of the note.

Q.—On this point of the notice being addressed to the Company—You had given a personal note?

A.—I thought I had.

Q.—And you did not know until last week that the stamp was on it?

A.—No.

Q.—Then how could they serve a notice on the Company?

A.—Miller had apparently stamped the note after I signed it.

Q.—Did you realize that when the notice was directed to the Company that the Company must have appeared on the note as a party?

A.—There must have been something wrong. The Company might have been mixed up in it.

COMMISSIONER—And then you saw Mr. Gillis about it?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What did Mr. Gillis do?

A.—Mr. Gillis told me that he would arrange to have the note extended, and told me not to bother—that he would arrange an extension till Sir Richard Squires returned.

Q.—Are you quite sure that this is what Mr. Gillis said? He gave us a different version. He said that it was not he who was going to arrange, but he said that Mr. Wolvin was coming very shortly, and he would get him to use his influence with the Bank to extend the note. Is that more accurate?

A.—That is more accurate.

Q.—Mr. Gillis said that he would arrange or rather that Mr. Wolvin was coming, and he would get him to arrange the matter. Did Mr. Wolvin come?

A.—He came the following day I believe.

MR. WINTER—Did you talk to Mr. Wolvin about it?

A.—No. It was not mentioned to Mr. Wolvin by me.

COMMISSIONER—He did not speak to you about it or you to him?

A.—No.

MR. WINTER—Did you have anything more to do with the note?

A.—No. I asked Mr. Miller sometime in December if there was anything further on the note. Sir Richard Squires returned some time in December.

Q.—That was when the note was falling due again?

A.—That was when there would be another blast from the note.

Q.—What did he say?

A.—He told me the note then was looked after.

Q.—He told you in December that the note was looked after?

A.—Picked up.

Q.—By whom?

A.—I did not go into details. I understood it was by Sir Richard Squires—he had come home.

Q.—You heard nothing more about the note then?

A.—I heard nothing further about the note. I told Mr. Miller then to consider me out of all notes—I would have no further transactions with regard to notes.

COMMISSIONER—Just let me look at those notes a minute. The first one of these notes was signed by you and Miller without the words manager or accountant.

A.—Yes, I see that.

Q.—The second one is signed by you as Manager, and him as Accountant. Was there anything said between the two about you and his signing in your capacities as officers of the Company?

A.—I understand it was just to see if we had any standing or anything like that.

Q.—How would it improve your standing?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Why did you not sign as Manager of the Company. You might have been Manager of a betting shop or a shoe store, or anything. "Manager" would not help anybody who did not know you very much. I cannot see what was the idea of putting manager unless it was meant in some way against the Company.

A.—That might have been the ultimate motive, but not so far as I was concerned.

Q.—You see on that there is the Company's stamp. That is the thirty day note. The second note is chronological order. First of all we have a note which has nothing at all to do with the Company—then we come to the thirty day note. It seems that then you had not allowed enough time for Sir Richard to return. I am pointing out that on the thirty day note there is the Dominion Stamp. Did you not see that thirty day note when you signed the sixty day note?

A.—I never saw the note after. I understood that it had been destroyed. He gave me to understand that it had been destroyed. I understood that he had torn it up or something like that.

COMMISSIONER—You cannot remember what expression you used?

A.—No sir, I cannot.

Q.—However, you say that even on that note you did not see the Dominion Company's stamp.

A.—No sir, I retorted assured that the Bank would protect me. They

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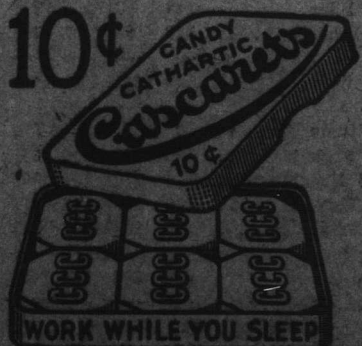
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