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## Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd., Proprietors.

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Monday, January 28, 1924.

### The End of Secret Diplomacy.

An ambassador has been defined as one who lies abroad for the good of his country, but if the British Premier's decision in the matter of secret diplomacy is carried into effect, the definition will no longer suggest a doubt as to that official's veracity, as dissembling or evasion will no longer be considered among his chief qualifications.

Undoubtedly secrecy in the councils of the nations is to a certain extent desirable, and in discussions which concern the relations of one power with another is often absolutely essential, but it is equally certain that it has been in many instances an unmitigated evil. It was frequently led to wars where, in fact, an appeal to arms was unnecessary; it has awakened suspicion where there was no reason for distrust; it has implied very often a lack of confidence on the part of the statesmen in the support of the public, and has tended to deny them the right of voicing their opinion through their representatives in Parliament assembled.

During the war the seal of secrecy was placed on everything of an official nature. While it was unanimously agreed that this was necessary in respect of many matters, it was injurious to the cause in others. The people, for example, were kept in ignorance of the reasons for the scarcity and the consequent high prices of foods, and there was not a little resentment against many of the hardships imposed. Had they been given even an inkling as to the actual serious state of affairs, there would have been fuller co-operation with those upon whom the affairs of state pressed heavily, and even greater sacrifices would have been made willingly and ungrudgingly.

Had the people of Germany been aware of the motives which prompted the war lords of the Kaiser to draw the sword, it would never have been unsheathed. Had the people of Britain and France known of the political squabbles that were going on during the period of hostilities (and since revealed) between the political representatives of the Allies, they would have effectively warned the politician to get on with the war; the end of the struggle would have been earlier and more decisive, and the peace more clearly defined.

One of the results of the War was the League of Nations. Its purpose was "to promote international co-operation and to achieve International Peace and Security, by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war, by the prescription of OPEN, just, and honourable relations between Nations." With regard to the openness of negotiations since that estimable suggestion was approved, it may truthfully be said that the agreement has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

However, the times are changed, and we are changed with

them. The order has gone forth that hereafter secret methods will no longer be tolerated, the mysterious conferences in the cabinet will be proclaimed aloud, and the national policy will be broadcasted. Such publicity and frankness will be an earnest of the sincerity of Britain in her dealings with foreign countries, but will the other powers reciprocate? Will France? Will Germany? Will Russia, even?

### Supreme Court

(Before Mr. Justice Kent)  
The trial of Charles R. Tuff on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of four year old Mollie Humphries, which occurred near Shaw's Lane on Cornwall Avenue on 11th July 1923, began at the Supreme Court this morning at 10 o'clock before the following special jury:—Peter H. Cowan, George Kenney, Heber Bartlett, Edward Perez, James Darcy, Joseph Peters, Reuben Adey, John Walsh, Michael O'Brien, Wm. Bages. Following the impaneling of the jury the others who had been summoned were dismissed.

The Court Recorder having read the indictment, Mr. Gibbs, K.C., on behalf of the Crown then addressed the jury and explained the circumstances surrounding the case. The question they had to consider was whether there had been careless and negligent driving of the motor cycle on the part of the accused. If the death did result from his careless and negligent driving and if the Crown did prove that he was driving carelessly then he was to find him "Guilty" of manslaughter. Up to recess hour was evidence of Lily Hussey, a domestic, who was in company with the child on the afternoon, and that of James Snelgrove and Dr. Anderson was taken, after which the court arose until 2.30 p.m.

### Epidemic of Measles at Port Albert

#### THREE DEATHS REPORTED.

A message to Hon. Dr. Barnes, Minister of Education, was received last night stating that an epidemic of German Measles had broken out at Port Albert, near Change Islands, three deaths having already been recorded. As soon as the information was received Dr. Barnes got in touch with Dr. McKenle at Fogo, who is making every effort to proceed there.

### Magistrate's Court.

A 38-year-old laborer Rossister's Lane given in charge by his wife for being drunk and disorderly, was ordered to sign bonds in the sum of \$100 or in default 10 days imprisonment.

Two drunks arrested over the weekend were each fined \$1.00 with the option of three days imprisonment.

A 31-year-old laborer, Plymouth Rr., employed at the East End Rock Shed was charged with first: being drunk and disorderly and violently resisting arrest; second: the larceny of 3 lbs. fresh beef and 2 lbs. salt beef, the property of Benjamin Crane, valued at \$1.50; third: the larceny on Jan. 26th of 4 lbs. fresh beef, 4 lbs. sugar, 1 pkg. jelly, 2 lbs. butter and 1 pair rubbers, all to the value of \$4.50, the property of Albert Stacy. He was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

A 17-year-old domestic was charged with the larceny on Dec. last of \$200 in cash, the property of a boarder. Upon the charge being proven she was let go on suspended sentence. In the meantime she was ordered to sign bonds in the sum of \$100 for her future good behavior.

### Annual Meeting of The Board of Trade

The Annual Meeting of the Nfld. Board of Trade will be held this afternoon at four o'clock when the reports of the past year will be read and the election of officers and Councilors will take place.

### Obituary.

MRS. MIRIAM ROBERTS (Wesleyville B.B.)

There passed peacefully away, this morning, Wesleyville, B.B., Mrs. Miriam Roberts. The deceased, who had reached the ripe old age of 90 years, was the wife of the late Thos. Roberts. She was a beloved mother and a true Christian, and was always ready to lend a helping hand to others, and her many kind acts will be long remembered. She leaves to mourn five sons, Thomas, Peter and Samuel at Wesleyville, B.B.; Thomas at Philadelphia, and John, this city; three daughters, Caroline, Mary and Friedella, residing at Wesleyville. "Grant her O Lord, eternal rest."

**RAILWAY LINE CLEAR**—Practically the whole railway line to Port aux Basques is now clear of snow. The weather is fine and very cold all over to-day.

## J. T. Meaney Under Cross-Examination This Morning.

Mr. Hollis Walker began the fourth week of his investigation under the Commission this morning at 10.30 o'clock. When the session opened, Mr. Meaney was called to the stand and cross-examined by Mr. Lewis in relation to statements made in his examination in chief on Friday morning.

MR. LEWIS first referred to the fact that the witness had testified during the enquiry into the Controller's Department, and that he stated that his conduct as Liquor Controller had been disgraceful. To this the witness replied he admitted the statement as made by Counsel. Asked if he suggested the raising of money from the D.L. & N. Co. for the modification of the Wolvin-Coaker Contract, the witness said he did not. The Coaker-Wolvin Contract seeking a dollar per ton tax on ore was public property in 1920. The witness said he had read the two particular clauses after they were ratified by Parliament. Asked if he thought of the value of these clauses to the colony, the witness said he thought they hampered the Company too much and were therefore not beneficial to the colony. Erecting a smelter, he regarded like bringing coal to Newcastle.

MR. LEWIS—Did you discuss with anyone the general clauses of the Coaker-Wolvin Contract?

A.—Yes, with my associates.

MR. LEWIS—Did you oppose the ratification in these discussions?

A.—Not particularly. I may have done so.

Asked by Mr. Lewis if 1921 was the first time he had met Mr. Miller, the witness said he had spoken to him in 1920. Asked if Mr. Miller supported him in the Harbor Main Election, the witness said he did not to his knowledge.

MR. LEWIS—Did Sir Richard finance your campaign?

A.—I went to him and discussed the matter the party paid the election expenses. Except for a little I paid myself expecting to get it back, but I did not.

Questioned again about meeting Mr. Miller, the witness said he met him at the office of Howard Reid, Bank of Nova Scotia Building.

MR. LEWIS again referred back to the elimination of the two clauses of the contract and witness said Mr. and Miss Miller first brought the matter up to him in December 1921. He had no recollection of having previously had the matter brought to his attention.

MR. LEWIS—You never heard of a desire in this direction on the part of the officials of the company?

A.—No.

COMMISSIONER—Do you know if at the time the contract was rectified a merger of the companies was contemplated?

A.—Yes, it was rumored at the time. Asked by Mr. Lewis if he had heard of any suggestion of the possibility falling through, the witness said no. Asked when he first met Mr. McDougall, witness said he met him in the Crobie in 1920. He had a speaking acquaintance with him before that time but he had not been introduced to him. Asked if he knew Mr. Gillis, witness said he met him in 1919. He did not know that the 10 year Royalty Agreement expired at the time he met Mr. McDougall. He had a conversation with him, but on personal matters, nor did he speak with Gillis on the subject. The Coaker-Wolvin contract was not mentioned either. Asked if he recalled again meeting McDougall witness said no, he did not until he met him in Montreal.

To the Commissioner the witness said he did not discuss the elimination of the clauses with McDougall at any time prior to meeting him in Montreal. He had discussed them with Miller who had told him that the company would be satisfied to make a payment for the elimination of the clauses. Miller was then an employee of the company. Asked at what time Miller spoke to him about his promotion, witness said about 1922. He told him then he expected to come to St. John's as the company's representative. Witness said Miller did not ask him to assist in getting the appointment. Witness added he was not in any position in which he could assist.

Asked where he was when he and Sir Richard discussed the elimination, witness said it was in Montreal, Dec. 1921. He, witness, was ostensibly there on labor matters, but the real reason was the raising of the money.

MR. LEWIS—Did you go to Montreal on a suggestion of Sir Richard?

A.—I had the assurance of Mr. Miller and Miss Miller.

Asked if he had authority in writing on the subject witness said Sir Richard did not give authority in writing at that period. To the Commissioner the witness said it was conveyed to him in a general way that the elimination would be of advantage to Mr. Miller. Asked by Mr. Lewis regarding the conversation at Montreal with Sir Richard, the witness repeated testimony as given in his examination in chief. Witness believed that money would be paid for the elimination. He hoped that they would: The basis of his hope was that the company would consider it to their advantage. He perhaps had a hope of participation in a division of the money. He had no hope of a 50-50 split. If Sir Richard had obtained the money he would be able to return that borrowed from him as Controller.

MR. LEWIS—Did you consider it was an immoral proceeding?

A.—I knew it was not right and as for the legality of the matter he did not give it consideration. He had recollection of public officials abroad being convicted for transactions of this kind. Asked if he had recollection of similar negotiations previously, witness replied no. To a further question, the witness said he did not have it as a part of his plan that if he succeeded in raising the \$100,000 that he would be appointed Controller. He simply undertook the negotiations in the interests of Sir Richard, hoping that if successful, the amounts due in the Controller's Department would be settled up.

Asked if there was a suggestion that Miller was to have a part of the \$100,000, the witness replied, no. Asked if he accomplished anything in his negotiations, witness said they made some progress, these things were not done in a day he said and as far as he knew no money was paid as a result of these negotiations in 1921. He was not discouraged and tried again in Jan. 1923. The money settlement then was placed at \$300,000.

MR. LEWIS—Was the meeting with Mr. McDougall party pre arranged?

A.—Yes, on our part at least.

Asked about the matters suggested at the meeting the witness said when the matter was discussed the first amount named was about \$200,000, then \$250,000 and finally \$300,000.

COMMISSIONER—You wanted to break the ice early.

The witness said Mr. McDougall's remark that Sir Richard was crazy was said in a jocular manner. Questioned about the jocosity of Mr. McDougall's remark, the witness said he knew of Sir Richard's necessity at the time. Asked further question, witness said that Sir Richard had made a threat through the Canadian Press that he would confiscate the properties if they did not come to his terms. Mr. McDougall mentioned this matter to him during the conversation in which the obtaining of the money was discussed. The witness reiterated that the money discussion was contained when Miller joined in the conference.

The cross-examination following became more or less a battle of wits between Mr. Lewis and Mr. Meaney. Counsel made several efforts to shake Meaney's evidence in connection with his interview with various officials of the Steel Company without apparent effect. Witness stated that he did not know Sir Richard. Squires would be going to Montreal at the time that he himself left. He certainly had no recollection of it. Referring to the labour trouble at Wabana, counsel asked if witness had knowledge of the negotiations made by Sir Richard Squires in that connection and was informed that Mr. McDougall had shown him (Meaney) a message in Montreal. Witness, continuing, said Squires did not better terms by going to Montreal than if he had accepted McDougall's cable offer to St. John's.

MR. LEWIS—Did the mines shut down so that the export tax on ore might be removed?

WITNESS—Not that I know. Further questioned, witness said that in his opinion the Company did not want to operate the mines and only did so at the earnest request of the Government. When the mines did reopen it was only because the tax was remitted, and even then McDougall claimed the Company was operating at a loss.

MR. LEWIS—Isn't it a fact Mr. Meaney, that the agreement the previous year for the re-opening of the mines was on the basis of the employment of 800 men?

WITNESS—Yes I negotiated it. These terms with others were made the basis of the re-opening in the following year.

THE COMMISSIONER did not think it necessary to go further into his matter, as it did not appear relevant.

Asked by Mr. Lewis in what capacity he was dealing with Mr. McDougall, witness said as Vice-President of Basco.

Referring to the request he had made for money from the Company, witness said he understood that all of it was for Squires personally, and not for the Campaign Funds.

MR. LEWIS—Did you see Mr. McDougall several times after Sir Richard left Montreal? Did you not say that before?

WITNESS—Not to my recollection. I think you are thinking of 1921. I saw him at Sydney and had one conversation with him. After my previous conversations with Mr. McDougall I regarded the negotiations as hopeless and told Sir Richard so.

MR. LEWIS—You have no knowledge, have you, of any money being paid to Sir Richard after the discussion you had with Mr. McDougall at Montreal?

WITNESS—No personal knowledge. Neither do I know of any amendments since made to the contract.

MR. LEWIS—You have not heard of any desire on the part of Mr. Wolvin to have the contract amended?

WITNESS—I have, but only indirectly. I have no personal knowledge.

WITNESS said he had no knowledge of a desire on the part of McDougall to succeed Wolvin. Miller might have told him, but he could not recollect. He had only by common rumor heard of any attempts on Wolvin's part to bring about the amendment of the contracts. He had discussed the matter with Sir William Field at his residence in Montreal. Witness could not recollect the details of the conversation. The conversation with Sir William had taken place in 1921.

Adjournment was taken at 1 p.m. until this evening at 3 o'clock. Owing to many repeated questions the cross-examination of the witness has been a tedious process, and it is probable that Mr. Meaney will be on the stand the greater portion of the afternoon.

### TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

#### FAVORABLE OPINION OF THE LABOR PARTY GAINING GROUND.

LONDON, Jan. 28.  
How long the new Government will last is now the predominant question in England. When it is recalled that as recently as during the general elections both Liberals and Conservatives voiced intense alarm lest Labor should come into power, it is surprising how calmly the new government has been received. Still more remarkable has been the unanimity of the press in acknowledging what is characterized as the skill and sagacity of the new Premier Ramsay MacDonald displayed in choosing his first ministry. The initial success on the part of the new Premier in this connection has led to a revision of popular opinions of the duration of the administration.

#### GOOD PROSPECTS OF ENDING RAILWAY STRIKE BY INTERVENTION.

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There seemed to-night to be a good prospect for intervention to end the railway strike. The emergency committee of the Trades Union Congress, following negotiations carried on during the day with Engineers and Firemen and railway managers, submitted fresh proposals to the latter to-night. These proposals received the approval of the Secretary of the Strikers' Association.

#### FUME PASSES TO ITALY.

ROME, Jan. 28.  
Premier Mussolini and M. Pachitch, respectively Premier of Italy and Foreign Minister of Jugo-Slavia signed a treaty by which Fiume becomes Italian territory. The immediate result of the agreement will be the possibility of Jugo-Slavia decreasing her army which numbers 11,000 men which will lessen to a considerable extent the country's budget.

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Don't forget that the Big Game, ending the series of St. Joseph's Card Games, will take place on Tuesday, January 29th. The prizes are big and plenty; so don't fail to come. Tickets 30c. Jan 28, 21

#### Train Notes.

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The Kyle with mails and passengers left there at 4.45 p.m. and is not due back from North Sydney until late to-night.

The Carbonar train arrived at 12.45 p.m.

#### Coastal Boats.

GOVERNMENT.  
Argyle due Argentina to-day. Gloucester will leave Argentina after arrival morning train.

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### New arrivals in.

#### English China Tea Sets

They are the prettiest patterns yet. Artistic designs are predominant. The matter then resolves itself into a question of choosing.

And the price from

**\$6.50**