

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

FEBRUARY 5TH.
COMMISSIONER—Dr \$30,000.00?

A.—Yes on one occasion we were talking about the expense of the Sir John by-election and I told him that my estimate was that it was \$30,000 or \$35,000.00 that I was out of pocket. I didn't mean by "out" that the money was paid by me.

Q.—You told him that you were out about \$30,000.00 on campaign funds?

A.—When I use the expression "out" I don't mean that all the campaign liabilities had been liquidated, but that was the amount I was out.

Q.—Then you might have used that expression?

A.—Quite possibly.

Q.—Did you name to him four or five large amounts down Water St.?

A.—That I was expecting to get in?

Q.—No. I thought these were four or five large amounts owing.

A.—No.

Q.—Were there any large amounts at that time owing on Water Street in campaign matter?

A.—No, I think not except as accommodation.

Q.—There might be—like printing for instance?

A.—That would be the Star.

Q.—Don't you go in for posters, pamphlets and election addresses?

A.—That would be printed by the Star.

Q.—Would that be included in the eighty or eighty-five thousand?

A.—No.

Q.—He said you told him you were out about \$30,000.00 on campaign funds and you name four or five large amounts down Water Street and that you were shortly leaving for the Old Country and you did not think you could collect the money until you returned.

A.—Not in that form; I probably told him that I was \$30,000.00 out. It is a fact that there were amounts and those were carried on negotiable papers; they were liabilities to me but which would probably be kept up in whole or part with parties identified with the papers.

MR. WARREN—Was it a fact that you could not collect it until your return?

A.—I can collect nothing which was represented by negotiable paper.

Q.—Did you tell him that there were things that you could not collect until your return?

A.—I may have done so.

Q.—He went on to say that you asked him to get in touch with his people to get accommodation?

A.—That is not correct.

Q.—Did you ask him to get in touch with his friends and get accommodation?

A.—No.

Q.—No hint that he was to get accommodation to you to relieve the trouble of this amount that you were out on campaign funds?

A.—I was not troubled about that

amount that I was out.

COMMISSIONER—They might be before you returned.

A.—No. Probably not because I was carrying accommodation papers in connection with that matter. I did not estimate any trouble in connection with it.

COMMISSIONER—I shall take a note of it. Mr. Miller has said "He asked me to get in touch with our people and arrange accommodation for two months for \$35,000.00 and I said as it did not mean a cash outlay our people might do so."

A.—No. I did not ask him to arrange for \$35,000 with the Bank.

Q.—He did not say Banco.

A.—He said "our people."

Q.—This is 1920 and there was no British Empire Steel Company at that time.

A.—I think there was.

Q.—If so, the information I have is incorrect.

A.—Mr. McDougall in his letter of December 19th referred to the merger.

Q.—But the letter contradicts you instead of supporting you because it said it might not go through.

A.—I am not saying it had gone through.

Q.—It has not only not gone through but it may never go through. Clearly at this time there had been no merger; we are speaking now about before you left in August, 1920 and nobody has suggested that there had been a merger then or that the British Empire Steel Company had gone into existence.

A.—My recollection is that it had gone into existence.

Q.—You may be mistaken about it. I want to see what I have "I never asked him to get in touch with his people or arrange any accommodation from them or anybody."

A.—That is right. Certainly he did talk about the liquidation of two or three thousand dollars.

Q.—That was in connection with the Bay de Verde election?

A.—Yes.

Q.—As I understand, he complained that it was too big a burden on him to carry.

A.—That two or three thousand dollars, yes.

Q.—He took the position that the company refused to allow the men their wages that it would mean a total that he would not be prepared to carry personally.

A.—Well he

Q.—He made it clear to you that it was too big a burden for him to carry personally?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Any large sums of \$40,000 were entirely beyond his means?

A.—Yes.

MR. WARREN—You, I think, saw a copy of Miller's statement recently?

A.—Shortly before the opening of the commission.

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Q.—I am not going into it now. I shall do that later on, but I ask you shortly before the opening of the commission you saw a copy?

A.—Of some statement?

COMMISSIONER—The statement Mr. Curtis had.

A.—Yes.

Q.—Which purported to be the paper?

A.—Yes.

MR. WARREN—You made certain corrections?

A.—I told Mr. Curtis that certain of the statements were not correct.

Q.—You told Mr. Curtis that some of the statements were not correct and he took notes; he took them down?

A.—I cannot tell you if he took them down.

Q.—You don't know what he did with them; would you remember that statement of Mr. Miller's if I showed it to you now; would you remember the chief points of it?

A.—I don't know if I would, it was not a matter of any importance to me and I took no particular notice of it. It was all interesting but of no great importance.

Q.—Was there any mention in that statement about you being \$30,000 out?

A.—I don't remember.

Q.—That was not one of the things that you said was wrong at that time?

A.—I would not say it was not true because it may be true.

Q.—Do you remember if in that statement that Mr. Miller made was it in that statement that you asked him to arrange \$35,000 accommodation for you?

A.—I don't remember if that was there or not.

Q.—If it had been there would you have corrected it?

A.—I would have challenged it.

MR. WARREN—Sir Richard, you then went away, and returned in December. In the meantime, the agreement had been closed between the Government and the companies before your return. Now, I understand, you said Sir Richard that you did not know anything about these payments that Mrs. Harcourt, or Miss Miller, had raised until the month of March, 1921?

A.—I said I had no definite knowledge of them.

COMMISSIONER—You did not put the word "definite." Had you any knowledge whatever?

A.—None whatever. The first I heard of it was on the occasion when Mrs. Miller told me she had given her brother certain cheques, some time after my return.

Q.—When you returned in December then you made no enquiry as to how your business had been carried on during your absence?

A.—None whatever. I was immediately engrossed with political matters, and my mind completely occupied.

Q.—I can quite understand your mind being engrossed with political matters, but it does not follow that it is impossible or unreasonable for you to just ask your manager how things had gone on. For all you knew you might have been landed with enormous liabilities.

A.—I did not know the exact situation until March.

Q.—I should have thought you would have got in touch with your office immediately after your return, and find out about these matters?

A.—Unfortunately I did not. If I had done so, I would have acted more promptly than in March.

MR. WARREN—When you left here in August, your bank account was overdrawn \$10,000.00?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You had the Star note coming due for \$14,000.00?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You had the Murrell note for \$5,000.00?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you had a steady drain to the Star office, as the accounts show. When you came back in December, did you make any inquiries as to what had become of the overdraft, the \$14,000.00 note and the note of Murrell's, or with regard to the Star accounts which you had telegraphed Miss Miller to look after?

A.—No. I did not make any inquiries. I came back here and got engrossed in the immediate thing that

unfortunately was occurring. At the moment of my attention, and permitted my own office to be sacrificed, as it were.

Q.—Did you not know what might have been done after you left in August? There was the note of \$14,000 to be dealt with and \$10,000.00 was overdrawn, and you did not inquire as to how this had been carried on?

A.—Miss Miller was in charge of my office, and had my entire confidence.

Q.—What do you mean by that?

A.—My business was in her hands, and I concluded everything was going on satisfactorily.

COMMISSIONER—Did you not want to know how you stood?

A.—Unfortunately, I did not make any inquiries of my clerks.

Q.—But this was at the end of the year. Don't you look into things at the end of the year at all?

A.—Normally, yes.

Q.—Don't you have your bank book, pass book, and so on, made up at the end of the year?

A.—Up to 1919 I had them made up monthly.

Q.—But you did not take stock of the situation in December, 1920?

A.—Unfortunately, I have not been doing so.

Q.—At the end of this year?

A.—Of this or any other year since 1919, I was too engrossed in political work.

MR. WARREN—Did not the Bank ever communicate with you in any shape or form about these matters?

A.—I have no recollection of any letter from the Bank, or any interview.

Q.—Or any notice?

A.—Any notice from the Bank would go to my law office, I would not get them. In all probability if they did go to my office, my secretary would send them to my law office. I don't remember any notice received personally.

Q.—While you were away, Sir Richard, you telegraphed to have your Bank of Commerce balance sent you, and you had nothing there?

A.—That was done.

Q.—Did you draw cheques on your Bank of Nova Scotia account while you were in England?

A.—Yes, not to any large amount.

Q.—What was the amount you drew for?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Did you draw one cheque for \$1,500.00?

A.—I could not tell you.

Q.—Did you draw for more than \$1,500.00 or less?

A.—I could not say that.

Q.—Did you draw on your Nova Scotia account while you were in England?

A.—I did make some drawings on it but I don't say there is one I can remember. I am now speaking from memory.

Q.—Then when you came back, you made no inquiries as to how the "Star" was—as to its financial condition?

A.—No. I took up the political situation, and it immediately and entirely engrossed my attention.

Q.—We know you became engrossed in the political situation, but did you make any inquiries?

A.—Well, if I was entirely engrossed in that, I was not looking after my own business.

Q.—Up to the time you went in August, had Miss Miller been providing funds for it?

A.—In so far as the amounts went through the office, my law office, she would have paid them out of office receipts or personal credits, or whatever money was available.

Q.—Out of office receipts, personal credits, or any money available?

A.—Yes. I have no knowledge of her having financed the "Star" in any way prior to the information that came out of this Enquiry.

Q.—Up to the time you went away in August, there was no necessity for her to borrow any money to finance the "Star"?

A.—I would not say that, because I don't know the condition of affairs. I can neither affirm or deny it.

Q.—I know that; but have you any knowledge of her having borrowed any money for you up to that time to finance the "Star"?

A.—No. I think not. I have an idea that during the course of this Enquiry there was a statement made that sometime in the month of June she borrowed some money from somebody. I am not sure of my recollection now as to just what she said. But if that were done it was without my knowledge.

Q.—Now this "Star," as we see by these accounts, was a pretty steady drain, without much coming in, and—

A.—That steady drain, as I think I have explained, included political payments made by the "Star"—not alone its running expenses.

Q.—Where did these cash amounts

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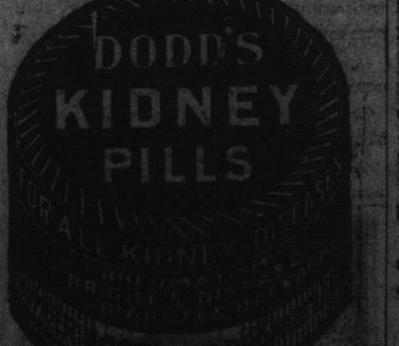
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