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

(Continued from page 9.)

British Steel business. A—If you would let your mind work a little more accurately you would understand that my answer to you was that she controlled that in my belief. I don't know what other policies were paid at the office.

COMMISSIONER—He certainly gave me to understand that he was not prepared to name any of the others. To me that sounds very like the truth.

WITNESS—It is the truth, no matter how it sounds, sir.

COMMISSIONER—Of course, I don't expect you to give me the details of every insurance policy that is to be found in your business office.

WITNESS—I could not give you the details, as I have not seen my insurance books since 1918.

COMMISSIONER—It means then that she was connected with the British Empire Steel Corporation, which you had already had in your office, the policies on which brought business of \$5,000.00 or \$6,000.00, of which you hoped for an extension.

WITNESS—I can have my insurance clerk find out exactly, for your information, what the profits would be.

MR. WARREN—An outport agent's commission you say, Sir Richard, is five per cent., and if \$480.00, as you told us yesterday, was an outport agent's commission and she was worth that, she should have brought \$9,600.00 in to you?

A—On a basis of five per cent. if she were an outport agent.

MR. WARREN—Mr. Commissioner,

I must ask for an adjournment now, as there are certain public duties which I have to perform, and I would ask, as I have not finished my cross-examination, that we make it up by sitting until half past five.

COMMISSIONER—These are public duties which particularly require your presence, in your public capacity, but your convenience is not the only consideration. I am quite prepared to sit until half past five. Do you mind, Mr. Howley?

MR. HOWLEY—I am prepared, generally speaking, sir, but I am sure you recognize what a great difficulty it is to distribute the time out of session in order to attend to other business matters.

COMMISSIONER—If you say it is really inconvenient to you, owing to the amount of other matters in your office, matters that require looking after, if you say it is inconvenient to you to sit later than five o'clock, then we shall not mind the extra half hour.

MR. HOWLEY—I just wish to point out that there will be time when it would be inconvenient for us to sit.

COMMISSIONER—I should like to sit for a full day, if I can. Mr. Warren has public business which he must attend to. I should like to sit for the extra half hour, unless by doing so I am doing an injustice to anyone else.

Adjourned to 2.30.

MR. WARREN—Before adjournment, there were some questions directed to Sir Richard with regard to his insurance company. As far as I am concerned, personally, I do not

desire to ask any questions as to his own or his firm's receipts from that Insurance Company. I am directing my attention entirely to the total amount of premiums he received, and what an outport agent's commission would amount to. Sir Richard, I understand, has since the adjournment made up the figures, and I see no reason why they should be made part of this Enquiry, but, in case you, sir, as Commissioner, desire to see the figures, I have agreed, subject to your approval, that the figures should be handed to you.

COMMISSIONER—I think I should like to see them. I see no reason why an entirely private matter of that kind should be made public, if he desires that it should not be. At the same time, I shall like to have them before me.

MR. WARREN—They have been shown to me. They represent only the profits or commissions he received on this particular business that was referred to.

COMMISSIONER—The British Empire Steel Corporation. (To Witness) Well, have you any objection to my seeing those figures?

WITNESS—No, I shall explain them to you.

COMMISSIONER—I thought you wanted to keep them from the public. MR. WARREN—He did not want to publicly and openly disclose a private matter. I quite understand; he has a very good reason for the position he takes up.

WITNESS—I am agent for Globe & Rutgers, and also for the United British Fire Insurance Company. With each of these companies, I made my own private arrangements as to Newfoundland business. As to what the nature of the arrangements made with the companies—made with each company—was, I am not prepared to disclose.

COMMISSIONER—If you made better arrangements with one of them, so much the better for you.

A—It was a matter of arrangement. The value to me and to my firm of the insurance of that company, in my opinion, far more than justified the payment of a salary of \$40.00 per month to control and develop it. (Produces Memorandum to Commissioner). Those are the figures.

MR. WARREN—They go in under oath, of course.

WITNESS—Well, they were prepared for me.

COMMISSIONER—You say, you think these figures were sufficient to justify a payment of \$480.00 per annum to Miss Miller?

WITNESS—Yes.

MR. WARREN—Very good. You then, Sir Richard, say you paid \$40.00 per month to Miss Miller because of the business that she was bringing to you?

A—I would have been prepared to pay more.

MR. WARREN—And you were prepared to pay more. That payment of \$40.00 per month to Miss Miller would be purely on account of insurance?

A—Yes.

Q—Not for any other services?

A—Not for any other services.

Q—After July, 1921, was Miss Miller acting for you—rendering you any services?

A—None whatever, excepting such services as a political supporter ordinarily renders in connection with the work.

Q—I am afraid that does not convey much to me.

A—I am sorry.

Q—I want to know if she was rendering you any service?

A—The same as any political supporter would render. I could name up a dozen political supporters in St. John's and the outports who had no business relations with me, were receiving no salary from me, and who were rendering me the same class of services as Miss Miller.

Q—That has nothing to do with it. What service did Miss Miller render you?

A—She was interested in the political welfare of the party of which we were members.

Q—And what service did she render? I am not asking what she was interested in.

A—I think that anything Miss Miller or her brother did for the upkeep of the party, they gladly did without remuneration or reward.

Q—My question was: what service did she render?

A—That was a service which she rendered.

Q—What service?

A—Political service.

Q—What political service?

A—I can't tell any particular individual man or woman she approached for political support or contributions, or give any particular information of political value which she brought to me.

Q—You said she rendered you political service. When one makes a general statement of that sort, then it is natural the Commission would like to know what the services were. You answer that you cannot recall any particular service after she left your office in July, 1921.

A—I can. I have already told you two or three times, I have a recollection of a time in the spring of 1921 when she collected an amount of \$2,000.00.

COMMISSIONER—Was that one of

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her political services—the obtaining of money for campaign funds?

A—That was a very valuable service which was participated in by her. COMMISSIONER—She did not go and hold meetings for you?

A—No.

COMMISSIONER—What other political service did she render, as well as helping to finance the political campaign? Was there anything else?

MR. WARREN—Was it not Miss Miller's job to help finance your political campaign?

WITNESS—No. Not more than any one of half a dozen others.

A—Yes. It was arranged between Miss Miller and myself.

Q—Do you know whether she got \$40.00 per month?

A—I know she got several payments of \$40.00, \$80.00 or \$120.00. I think on one occasion there was \$120.00.

Q—I am afraid you will have to produce those records.

A—I shall be glad to do so.

Q—You say that this was charged to Globe & Rutgers' account?

A—I am not saying so. When I saw the account here some time ago I noticed an entry on that account. There may have been some other account on the desk at the time.

Q—You noticed in one of the accounts you had here an entry of \$40.00 which you connected with Miss Miller. She was generally paid through the office?

A—I remember, on one or two occasions, and by cheque, paid by myself. If you are asking me now to speak from memory about the accounts, I shall be glad to produce the office records.

Q—You are speaking definitely of this \$40.00 per month, which you say was arrived at on the basis of insurance which she was able to bring, alleged to have brought, or could bring.

A—Or control.

Q—There was no doubt about that. It was arranged between you and Miss Miller that you would pay her that, and she was getting \$40.00 per month from July, 1921, for and on account of insurance, and that only?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—That was entirely office business, I presume?

WITNESS—Yes, insurance business.

COMMISSIONER—It was not part of your political activities?

WITNESS—No.

COMMISSIONER—Do you expect that a record will be found in your ledger of the whole thing?

WITNESS—I cannot tell until I see it.

COMMISSIONER—Is the ledger there?

WITNESS—No, it is at my office.

COMMISSIONER—The documents had better be kept here. You expect to find a special column somewhere there ought to be a special column?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—Not with the ordinary wages of your staff, but a special sheet in the ledger. There should be a special leaf, containing this account, and nothing else but this.

A—It is very difficult to speak from memory of the books themselves.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—You said Sir Richard that you paid Miss Miller forty dollars a month for attending to the insurance work, is that so?

A—I made arrangements to pay her forty dollars a month. I know that I paid her various amounts from time to time.

Q—How?

A—Because most of the payments were made by me by cheque, and, as I have said, when I looked at some entries, I thought they would correspond with those payments.

Q—Do you know whether that item was entered in the ordinary course of business or was it one of the items you sent over to Mr. Fraser to have put in the book?

A—Mr. Fraser would have the answer to that question.

Q—Very well, but I propose to put Mrs. Harcourt in the box again and I am out-bound to ask her that question. Now when were arrangements made about the forty dollars a month?

don't want to find out now from the documents. If at the time a record was made of the transactions I would like to see it. Was she paid at the office?

A—I think she was sometimes paid by cheque, which I forwarded her, and sometimes paid at the office. I can find out.

MR. WARREN—You have sworn that Miss Miller was paid \$40.00 per month. Did you make that agreement with her?

A—Yes.

Q—It was definitely settled at \$40.00 per month?

A—Yes. It was arranged between Miss Miller and myself.

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A—I do not know the date.

Q—What year it?

A—I gather it was in July, 1921.

Q—She left your office employ you say in July 1921, but I gather that she did not really leave in July 1921, after that she was working with you until that date. Is that correct?

A—You can say what you choose.

Q—Is it true or not I am asking?

A—She was connected with me for six years and naturally served me for that period and I understood received payment for her services until she left in July 1921. Then I thought she had insurance relations only for which she was paid \$40 a month. Then she became a political supporter of mine and also her brother and they assisted me as best they could, as others did.

Q—While paid forty dollars a month by you or your office for insurance work, after her services were no longer required in July 1921, yet she was not working for you, but was doing things gratuitously, is that the case?

A—She was receiving no pay in my office, she was paid for political work.

Q—It all depends on what you call political work. Would you call financing the "Star" political work?

A—Yes.

Q—Am I to take it then that she did finance the "Star" after she left the office?

Q—In spite of the fact that she deposited three thousand dollars for you in 1921?

A—I have already sworn that she did not do any financing except for political purposes, but that she deposited two amounts of \$3,000 and \$2,500 but the sources from which she got the money I have no knowledge of.

Q—You had not already sworn to that?

A—I have sworn that both herself and her brother James identified themselves in procuring money for my campaign fund.

Q—You know that the amounts from him.

MR. HOWLEY—That is not what my witness meant and you know it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—In a previous answer to a question he told us he did not know where the money came from and now he says it came from Mr. Miller.

COMMISSIONER—Did you know what happened?

A—I did not know that these amounts were personal subscriptions of Mr. Miller.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Did you not pay Miss Miller after she was supposed to have left your employ?

A—My own recollection is that she was paid on several occasions by personal cheque, but that is a matter of record and I prefer to speak from record rather than from memory.

Q—I am afraid I will have to refresh your memory without your record. Now you said that you used to pay her by your own personal cheque?

A—Yes, that is my recollection.

Q—Then you do remember that you did pay her?

A—I am not prepared to say whether I paid her personally or whether she was paid in the office. Thousands of cheques have been handled by the office and by myself, so that I cannot tell without referring to the records.

Q—Will you get the records that you refer to?

A—Yes, I will be glad to have Mr. Curtis turn them up.

Q—Did you ever send her a cheque from Ritz Carleton Hotel in Montreal?

A—I think I did. My memory is that she made application before I went away for some amounts that were due. Either while in transit or after I arrived in Montreal. I mailed a cheque. Whether she wanted as payment on account or payment up to date I paid it to her.

Q—Why not refer her to the office for payment as it was a straight account instead of by personal cheque from Montreal or in transit?

A—I sent her a cheque on a St. John's Bank in respect of her salary.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Why did

you send her a cheque from Montreal or in transit instead of having the cheque go through the office in the ordinary business-like way?

A—Before I left she said this amount was due her. I was busy at the time and I did not see her when about to make my departure.

Q—And soon after you left you suddenly thought of sending it while in transit?

A—My practice was to take a stenographer on the train with me for the purpose of cleaning up the multitude of business matters that I had no time to attend to. And while in transit after I had cleaned these matters up I mailed the cheque.

Q—If this was a business transaction and she was entitled to \$40 a month and it was transacted on Globe and Rutgers account, why did you bother about it when you were so busy with other things and instead of sending her a cheque either in transit or after you got in Montreal why did you not let it go through the office?

A—From a financial standpoint it made no difference.

COMMISSIONER—This he explained before. For instance it was not a partnership matter. The whole profits went to you and were not divided with the other partner, is that it?

A—Yes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—But why did you pay Miss Miller a personal cheque while in transit to Montreal instead of having it go through the office, as has apparently been done in the past.

A—I do not know whether she has apparently had it done in the past or not.

Q—You said that she had been debited some amounts as a part of the forty dollars a month?

A—I do not think you have in mind a very clear digest of the evidence.</