

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

JANUARY 16.
Q.—Now Sir Richard, let us get back to where we started. We started on this \$2,000.00 amount, and I asked you whether Miss Miller sent you any communication about the debt, and you did not recollect having received it, and you proposed to look up and see, and you paid her certain amounts which you do not know present, on account of this insurance. Did you make these payments after July 22?

A.—I do not know of any payments, but to answer that I would have to go to my records.

Q.—Did these payments stop after January 23rd?

A.—I do not know whether she would be entitled to the money after the cancellation of the insurance. Up to the time that the insurance was cancelled she was entitled to the money.

Q.—And under the arrangements made Miss Miller would receive about \$200 per month?

A.—Yes.

Q.—From November 1920 and for the next four months, December, January, February, and up to March 1921, when Miss Miller left, who would have access to your cheque book, the firm cheque book?

A.—The Bank of Nova Scotia cheque book would be in the custody of Miss Miller, and to who would have access to it would depend upon the way Miss Miller took of it. I was out of town at the time.

Q.—Did you ever draw cheques out of that cheque book after your return?

A.—I cannot tell you, but if I look over the stubs I will be able to tell you if there are any in my handwriting or not. I have no recollection.

COMMISSIONER.—After you returned, I think there is a book of stubs covering from Dec. 1921, to the early part of 1922.

MR. HOWLEY.—There is a book of stubs beginning in Nov. 1921, and ending on March 19, 1922. But none of these stubs have been taken out.

COMMISSIONER.—Those have been in evidence.

(Witness looks at the book of stubs.)

A.—There is no cheque stub in my handwriting.

COMMISSIONER.—That appears to be what Miss Miller said. She said that sometimes she drew a cheque, and filled in the stub, and you would just sign the cheque.

MR. WARREN.—That is after the cancellation of the power of attorney?

A.—That is before. That is from December to March.

Q.—You mean that you may have signed them yourself?

A.—That is possible.

COMMISSIONER.—That is what I gathered from her, that she had given the cheques and filled in the stubs.

WITNESS.—It is possible that I may have signed cheques during that period.

MR. WARREN.—Did you never look at the stub book?

A.—No, I never saw them.

Q.—Where were they when you could see them?

A.—I could not say that. My office is a large office. My own office is at the end, and at the other end is the accountant's desk, and the stub book may have been left on the accountant's desk.

Q.—Did you never ask to see them?

A.—No.

Q.—There is a note made on those stubs of the bank balance from time to time?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You had nothing against Mr. Meany when you went away in August of 1920?

A.—No.

Q.—You came back in December, and when you got back you were told that Mr. Meany had loaned or advanced you \$4,000.00 and that filled you with surprise and resentment. Why was that change of attitude?

A.—I do not know. I could look at them.

COMMISSIONER.—I take it that there is not. He has been through them.

MR. WARREN.—Now, Sir Richard, yesterday or the day before, in your examination in chief, you discussed several matters referring to Mr. Meany, and you quite understand that the credibility of Mrs. Harsant and the credibility of Mr. Meany, and the credibility of yourself has a great deal to do with this Enquiry, therefore I propose to ask you a few questions to clear up things. Mr. Meany, you say, was pressing for appointment as full controller, and that you personally were favorable to his appointment?

A.—I would like to see the report of my evidence on that point. It all depends upon the period of time to which you refer.

COMMISSIONER.—Is it true that he was pressing for the appointment?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And were you favorable to his appointment?

A.—My idea is that he would be ultimately appointed full controller.

MR. WARREN.—When did he begin to press for the appointment?

A.—I think the suggestions as to his appointment as full controller would be somewhere in the summer of 1921.

Q.—When was he appointed?

A.—In August of 1920. I came back after December or in December and during the weeks or months after that the position was suggested to me not necessarily by him personally, but by some people, that it would be a good idea to appoint him as controller before the House opened.

Q.—Then it began early in 1921?

A.—Yes. I was not antagonistic to his appointment to full controller, but the idea was that there was to be a reorganization of the department. I was not at all antagonistic to the appointment.

Q.—Did you indicate that to the people who were pressing?

A.—Oh yes. And Meany himself knew that when the appointment at acting controller was made; it was only a provisional appointment.

Q.—And he knew that you were favorable to his appointment?

A.—Yes, I told him myself.

Q.—Later on when you were not favorable to it?

A.—That came to 1922 I was so strongly inclined to give him the appointment, but it was a matter for the Executive Government and not for my own decision.

Q.—Did you at any time bring it before the Executive Government to make him full controller?

MOORE.—Two.

A.—It will be remembered that when the appointment as acting controller was made there was an idea in the minds of the Committee of Council of reorganizing the department, of having an entire change of system, so that the appointment made was a provisional one.

Q.—At all events he was to get such appointment as would be made under any new system?

A.—Yes.

Q.—That was in August, 1920?

A.—Yes. The appointment was made at the last meeting of Council before I went away, and the appointment would be conveyed to Mr. Meany in the ordinary course of events by the Colonial Secretary's Department. Probably by Mr. Mews, I think that meeting was held almost the night before I went away.

Q.—You went away and you came back in December. Now, when you went away, your opinion was that Mr. Meany was a fit and proper person to take charge of the Department under any system of reorganization?

A.—Yes. We thought that he was entitled to something. We had an understanding that we ought to do whatever we could for him, and if possible give him some public position of permanency.

Q.—You had nothing against Mr. Meany when you went away in August of 1920?

A.—No.

Q.—You came back in December, and when you got back you were told that Mr. Meany had loaned or advanced you \$4,000.00 and that filled you with surprise and resentment. Why was that change of attitude?

A.—There was no change of attitude. When I came back and learned that such a transaction as that had taken place, I would want to clean it up immediately. Mr. Meany was a man who, a few months before, had been a poor man, and it never dawned on me at the moment that that money had come from the Department of the Liquor Controller. If I had thought of it, I would probably come to that conclusion.

Q.—But why were you filled with surprise and resentment. When you went away in August you had no resentment, but when you came back you were filled with surprise and resentment?

A.—I did not say that I was filled with resentment against John T. Meany. I said that I felt the same as I would feel if money had been borrowed for me from a person to whom I did not want to be under obligation. And accommodation from John T. Meany was not a thing that I wanted.

Q.—Why?

A.—For the same reason that I sent him back the case of whiskey that he sent me.

Q.—Did you send back the other amounts?

A.—Should I find any money due by me it was closed off. As a matter of fact, after I resigned, a gentleman came into my office and showed me a cheque for \$1,000, which I knew nothing about, he did not explain. Miss Miller had no authority to approach him. I know she got a thousand at least and I have not a shadow of an idea whether I am liable to this man or not.

MR. WARREN.—This is serious, I would like to get that.

A.—And I would like to give the full information.

Q.—I don't know who this man is and I don't want to know. You stated that Miss Miller was working constantly for you for your political campaign, she was getting subscriptions wherever she could get them, and now you say that Miss Miller got a thousand dollars and you don't know what became of it?

A.—I am not suggesting that she misappropriated it.

Q.—Well then what are you worrying about?

A.—I am worrying about this \$2,000.00.

Q.—Yes, but what about the \$2,000.00?

A.—I don't know if it was a loan or whether it is for campaign purposes.

Q.—Why don't you ask her?

A.—I have not seen her.

Q.—You have not seen her since the election campaign?

A.—I have not been speaking to her, more than to pass her on the street and say "How do you do?"

Q.—You are worrying now because you may have got a thousand dollars which you may have to pay back?

A.—If it is a thousand dollars I am not so worried because it is a small amount.

Q.—She had implied authority to go out and get subscriptions for you and now you are worrying because she got a thousand dollars and you don't know if you have to pay it back? Are you worried about any other monies that you have to pay back?

A.—Yes, the \$2,000 which I have found recently, which I cannot trace. There is a cheque stub representing \$2,000 for a gentleman in town.

MR. WARREN.—Well, to come back to the subject of Mr. Meany. You were favourable to the appointment of Mr. Meany, sometime in August, 1920, and you had been favourable to that before, because he had been a political supporter. When did your opinion of Mr. Meany change; because you say it became less and less probable that Mr. Meany would be appointed as full controller. What changed your opinion?

A.—I was not quite so satisfied as I had been that it was in the public interest that he should be appointed. I thought there might be another appointment for which he would be better suited. There might have been another appointment for which he would be the particular man. I was not sure that the appointment of Mr. Meany to Controller was one in the public's interest.

Q.—There were other positions that he might be appointed to?

A.—Yes.

Q.—He was respected by you as a decent citizen?

A.—He had been a candidate for us in the campaign of 1919 and we would do anything for him.

COMMISSIONER.—Well, then, you respected Mr. Meany. Don't run away from it. That may or may not

be a ground for respect. I don't know. What you were asked was whether you respected him?

A.—In certain particulars I did and in some I did not.

Q.—Up to the time that Mr. Meany stood as a candidate for our party in 1919, you had particular confidence in him?

A.—I had such confidence in him as was necessary for me to have and I caused him to be paid out of the State account a salary of so much a month.

COMMISSIONER.—Of course what degree of respect this denotes I don't know. I don't know enough about the standard.

MR. WARREN.—Mr. Meany as a candidate and Mr. Meany as a witness is a different thing. Before the election came off did you promise him a position for the political service?

MR. HOWLEY.—Are you talking about Mr. Meany as a witness?

MR. WARREN.—I am afraid he has brought this on himself.

COMMISSIONER.—I shall have to think of the credibility of this reference. I want to know what this witness thinks as to the credibility of this witness. I want to know now what the change is. I think I must allow the questioning. I may say you may have to bring this to my notice again. I may say I think there is good food for a feed in this.

MR. WARREN.—At one time you had a very high opinion of Mr. Meany? He was known to you?

A.—The opinion I had of him was based upon his capabilities as an aggressive politician, on his work in the telegraph office. His ability to do work for me in the newspaper, it was based also on my knowledge of him as a foreign newspaper correspondent, which was very excellent and in all these features in which he had acted to my knowledge, he had impressed me as a man of considerable ability.

COMMISSIONER.—As an aggressive politician and a man of considerable ability?

A.—Yes.

MR. WARREN.—What about his honesty? Apart from his ability, were you prepared to trust him with public affairs of departments?

A.—He had been.

MR. WARREN.—Never mind what he had been. I want to know did you trust him with affairs of public offices?

A.—I am giving you my line of thought.

COMMISSIONER.—The result should be your line of thought.

Q.—What about his honesty, did you think at that time, when you were a party to his being made acting temporary controller, did you think he was an honest man then?

A.—I had no reason to think that in financial matters he was dishonest.

MR. WARREN.—Had you offered him the position of Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs?

A.—That was the matter I discussed with him.

Q.—Did you write him that letter?

A.—It is addressed to Mr. T. J. Meany.

COMMISSIONER.—What is the date?

A.—September 26th 1919.

Q.—Would you mind reading it out?

A.—Witness reads letter addressed to Mr. J. T. Meany. That letter contains a statement of fact and after the election was over the matter had my serious consideration. I did not recommend it to the Committee of Council for political reasons. I discussed it with certain members of the political Government and it did not meet with their approval and subsequently they concurred in his appointment as Acting Controller. The idea being that after a reorganization he would be appointed full controller.

COMMISSIONER.—Do you wish to put that in?

A.—Yes. (Letter is put in.)

MR. WARREN.—Did you get an answer to that?

A.—I have no recollection. As a matter of fact if you had asked me if I had written him that letter, I would not have remembered if I had or not.

MR. WARREN.—Well I ask you to look at that and to say if you received that and if that is a copy of what you received?

COMMISSIONER.—Do you recognize that?

A.—I have no present recollection of having received it. That could be fixed very easily, because if there is a letter of reply to the request for a reply, then I received that letter.

MR. WARREN.—That is the reply?

A.—What appears to have happened is that there is the original letter of September 26th.

MR. WARREN.—Just wait a minute. Does that bring back to your mind that you received that letter?

WITNESS.—I either received the letter or had a personal interview

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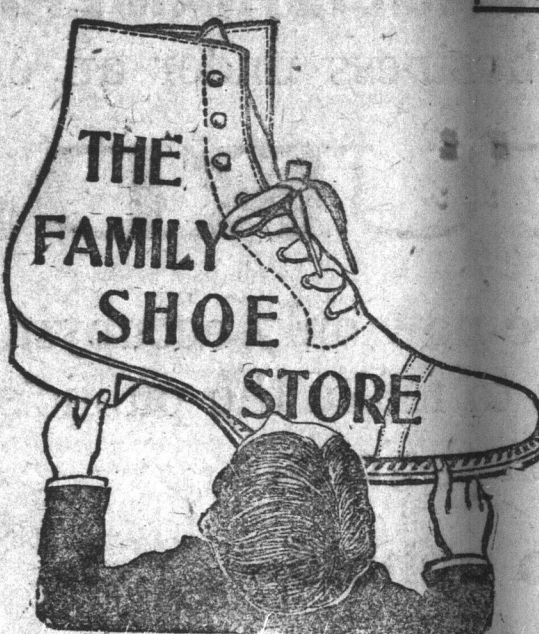
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