

DID NOT MAKE BARGAIN TO BE FRIENDLY TO W.L.M.

Ottawa Author Says Such Arrangement Does Not Agree With His Conception of History

MACKENZIE KING A WITNESS

Former Minister of Labor says Dr. Le Sueur Expressed Strong Views on Mackenzie and Responsible Government Long Before He Undertook to Write Lyon Mackenzie's Life—Views Astonounded Former Minister

A little better progress was made in the Non-Jury Assize Court to-day in the action for restraint brought by Mr. George Goldwin Smith Lindsey to prevent Dr. Le Sueur, an Ottawa author, from publishing a life of William Lyon Mackenzie, extracts on opinions derived from the private collection of Lyon Mackenzie's papers, then owned by Mr. Charles Lindsey, sr. In concluding the cross-examination of Mr. George Lindsey, who had been in the witness box for more than two days, Mr. George F. Shepley, K.C., for the defendant, tried to show from the two-volume history of Mackenzie's life and times written by plaintiff's father, that even there Mackenzie was referred to, not as the father of responsible government, but merely as an advocate, and that Dr. Le Sueur had just followed that line.

Mr. Mackenzie King, former Minister of Labor, testified to conversations he had had with Dr. Le Sueur in Ottawa prior to the date of the latter's undertaking to write the life of William Lyon Mackenzie. These conversations showed that Dr. Le Sueur had very strong views on the responsible government period, and proved to him even then Le Sueur's conviction that the credit for responsible government was due to Francis Bond Head, and not to Mackenzie. At that assertion, Mr. Mackenzie King expressed himself as having been astounded, and no less was his astonishment when he heard later that Le Sueur was going to write up Mackenzie's life.

Dr. Le Sueur, the defendant, also gave evidence and emphatically denied that there was any agreement between him and the plaintiff that he was to write a fair and friendly biography.

"Such an arrangement," said Dr. Le Sueur, "would not concur with my conception of history."

"INFAMOUS SUGGESTION."

"Then you say your grandfather did not reply to Dr. Harrison's infamous suggestion that he should abuse the Catholics in one paper and abuse the other side in another paper with the view of stirring up religious discord?" asked Mr. Shepley towards the close of his cross-examination.

"He did not. He even warned the people against attempts to make religious strife."

"Won't you take this interpretation of Dr. Harrison's letter: That he had already written an article which 'Patriot' had swallowed without suspicion, but now he was thinking of writing a rabid article on the church for the purpose of widening the breach?"

"No."

Mr. Justice Britton—"Apparently the bait was swallowed on another hook."

Mr. Shepley—"On an earlier hook."

Mr. Helmuth—"The point is that Dr. Le Sueur states that 'later on' Dr. Harrison wrote stating that the bait had been swallowed, whereas it was in the same letter, and in an earlier part of it, than the part in which the thought is expressed of writing an article against the church. The only deduction possible is that the swallowing of the bait referred to some other matter."

DID HE RUN AWAY?

Mr. Shepley then took Mr. Lindsey to the Navy Island incident where, according to Dr. Le Sueur Mrs. Mackenzie came to share the dangers of her husband. "She inspired with courage," the book stated, "all with whom she conversed, by her entire freedom from fear." Ill-health advised her to leave and Mr. Mackenzie accompanied her to Buffalo. On his way he was arrested for a breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, giving bail for his appearance.

"His biographer says," the manuscript continues, "that he returned to Navy Island where he remained until Van Rensselaer announced his intention to evacuate it on the 13th."

"That is in accordance with fact, and your father's history?" asked Mr. Shepley.

"Yes."

"Then Dr. Le Sueur continues to quote Van Rensselaer's opinion on that issue. He says that Van Rensselaer makes no mention of Mackenzie's return to the Island. 'He left the Island when the bombardment was commenced' his statement goes, 'and in spite of entreaties and remonstrances to him he remained in the house of a friend.' Then Dr. Le Sueur's narrative proceeds: 'If Mrs. Mackenzie arrived on the 29th and remained nearly a fortnight, we may perhaps place the date of her departure from Navy Island at the 10th.' What is wrong with that calculation?"

JUST GUESSED AT DATES.

"He is just making guesses at the dates."

"You would not expect him to make any other deductions than those justified by the records?"

"I would expect he would take the positive rather than the hypothetical for his premises."

"Then as to Mackenzie's complaint about the confiscation of his property. Was he excluded from the possession of his property at any time?"

"Yes. When he came back the greater part of his property was destroyed."

"Did you assist Mr. Morang in the action Dr. Le Sueur brought against him for the return of his manuscript?"

"I advanced him some money."

"To enable him to take the case to the Court of Appeal?"

"It may have been for that purpose."

The Telegram.

Toronto, Nov. 13-12.

FOLLOWED LINDSEY'S HISTORY.

"I have here the history of Mackenzie written by your father, and the point I am going to make is that while Dr. Le Sueur made a mistake in omitting a paragraph from the petition, and while he did not give Mackenzie the credit of being father of responsible government, he consistently put him in as an advocate of the movement. In doing so, too, he was just following the line taken by your father in his history. Do you agree with the attitude adopted by your father in his history?"

"I think he might have made it stronger than he did. My father did not go nearly far enough in helping Mackenzie's advocacy of responsible government."

"Then do you find fault with Dr. Le Sueur for following your father?"

"I have no objection to him copying Mr. Lindsey."

"Or paraphrasing?"

"No."

MACKENZIE ADMITS FAULT.

Mr. Shepley referred to another portion of the history written by the late Mr. Lindsey, quoting a communication sent by Mackenzie to Earl Grey, then Colonial Secretary, in which Mackenzie stated: "My observation during the last eleven years satisfies me that though the violent movements in which I and many others were engaged were successful, that success deeply injured the people of Canada. It deprived millions of people from Europe of a home upon this continent, except upon conditions which, though many hundreds of thousands have been constrained to accept it, are onerous. I am sensible of the errors committed during that period, but these cannot be recalled." Do you think that your grandfather entertained those views?"

"I believe it expressed his conscientious beliefs."

HAD STRONG VIEWS.

Hon. Mackenzie King, former Minister of Labor, a grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie, was the second and last witness called by plaintiff. He stated that he had known Dr. Le Sueur since 1900. Prior to Dr. Le Sueur's undertaking to write the life of William Lyon Mackenzie he had many conversations with him in reference to the times of William Lyon Mackenzie.

"In the year 1903, when Sir William Mulock was Postmaster-General and Minister of Labor," said Mr. Mackenzie King, "he invited Dr. Le Sueur and me to lunch at the Rideau Club. After lunch, Sir William left, and Dr. Le Sueur and I had a long conversation on matters of democracy and on questions of government. The conversation was indelibly imprinted on my mind," continued Mr. King, "because Le Sueur spoke very frankly of what he thought of the responsible government period."

BOND HEAD WAS THE MAN.

"There are three things I remember distinctly. First of all he said that Mackenzie had impeded rather than aided progress. I thought he must have felt very strongly on the matter to mention it to me in that way. It did not affect our friendship because I was interested in hearing Le Sueur's views. He thought that the Family Compact was the constructive element and Mackenzie, the destructive element. The third thing astounded me because I had not even heard that even the Family Compact made the claim that was that Francis Bond Head was the man who ought to get the credit for responsible government."

REPEAT/
RÉPÉTITION

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG 26 J 7 volume 22) William Lyon Mackenzie 1912 - Clippings - LaSuer case

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