

Q. Well, the fact that it was misled is there. Then, what was the next thing you had to do with it?—A. In the latter part of July or the first part of August in 1923, Sir Henry (Thornton) asked me if I would go over.

Q. Before that: you say you had not further discussed it with the Minister?—A. Oh, yes; I had looked into the whole thing as to what the cost had been, and had seen this letter, and Sir Henry (Thornton) had explained the whole matter to me.

Q. Then, of course, you took it up with the Minister. What was the Minister's instruction to you?—A. I did not receive any instructions from the Minister. You are referring to my trip overseas?

Q. Yes?—A. I did not receive any instructions from the Minister. Sir Henry (Thornton) approached me, and I told him I was agreeable if the Minister was; that I was a departmental officer. Sir Henry (Thornton) went to the Minister, and he gave his consent: he practically loaned me to the company.

*By Sir Henry Thornton:*

Q. You were Vice President, at that time, were you not?—A. No, I had resigned.

SIR HENRY DRAYTON: I did not hear that aside.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I will tell you what that aside was. I said "At that time you were Vice President of the Company, were you not?"—

SIR HENRY DRAYTON: That is all right; I just wanted to know what was going on.

THE CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Wait a minute. That question was addressed to me with the supposition that I was saying something to Major Bell that I should not have said.

SIR HENRY DRAYTON: All right; I think the questions should be addressed to Major Bell.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: All right. I did not like the inference.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sir Henry (Drayton), I think you had better address your questions to Major Bell, and I will also ask Sir Henry (Thornton) not to answer unless questions are put to him.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. When did you leave?—A. I think I left New York about the 9th or 10th of August; that is within a day or so.

Q. And you went straight over to where?—A. I went to London.

Q. Whom did you see in London?—A. I wired Aronovici to come over and see me.

Q. And I suppose Aronovici came over?—A. Yes.

Q. And you saw him?—A. Yes.

Q. And did he bring over his papers with him?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever see the option?—A. No.

Q. Who were the owners?—A. I don't know.

Q. Do not know who the owners were?—A. Well, I did hear in a casual way. That was for our legal department to take care of. I was not interested.

SIR HENRY DRAYTON: Now, the witness does not know, Mr. Chairman if Sir Henry (Thornton) wants to supply the information, I do not mind.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: You asked me the other day who the owners were, and I told you I would find out. I am sorry it slipped my mind, but I will find out in a day or so.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Not knowing who the owners were, then you never got in touch with them, of course?—A. No.