



(Founded in 1878 by W. J. Herder.)

Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd.,
Proprietors.All communications should be ad-
dressed to the Evening Telegram,
Ltd., and not to individuals.

Thursday, January 31, 1924.

Trade Review

Comments.

We are glad to find that the Trade Review also believes that the time has come when taxation in Newfoundland should be reduced. In its reference to the matter on December 26th it remarks, "Is it not time that the daily papers, which profess to serve the public and to be moulders of public opinion, should get busy on this vitally important matter?"

We prefer to consider that the use of the word "profess" in the comment was due either to ignorance of its meaning, or to lack of observation, rather than to any intention of being offensive. We have yet to find any newspapers from abroad that give their space more liberally to matters which are primarily concerned with the welfare of the public than do the local dailies. Charitable institutions, associations engaged in the social uplift of humanity and in furthering the work of the churches, movements to aid distress or to combat disease, campaigns to foster education or to instruct the citizens regarding fire prevention—all of them and others as well are given the use of the columns of the daily papers freely and willingly. That is serving, and not professing to serve, the public in the truest sense of the word.

The Trade Review confesses to a lamentable lack of observation when it suggests that it is time for the other papers to get busy on this vitally important matter; otherwise it would have noticed that in the editorial of December 12th, and again on December 27th, the Telegram dealt with this very important question. It is true the manner in which we dealt with it differed in one important respect from that adopted by the Trade Review. We stressed the necessity of combining with a reduction of expenditure, which is a feature that our contemporary does not seem to consider of sufficient concern to call for a single comment of its own.

We refer the Trade Review to these issues of the Evening Telegram in order to refresh its memory, or to observe that at least one of the daily papers has already directed public opinion to this matter which is to day second in importance to one only to which we will refer in due course.

In another column of the Trade Review appears an article suggesting a school for fishermen, and it is good enough to credit us with endorsing its previous reference to the subject. If our contemporary will again refer to the files of the Telegram, it will find this idea outlined as far back as October 2nd, and referred to again on December 10th and December 11th. We are glad at all times to have the support of the Trade Review, and we shall readily endorse any good suggestions that it may bring forward, but our modesty forbids us from setting the seal of approval on our ideas, however much they may appeal to us.

Enquiry Into Section II.
Nears ConclusionExamination of Mr. H. B. Gillis
--Important Correspondence
Read.

On Tuesday when the Commissioner resumed the afternoon session Mr. Winter made application for an order permitting inspection and liberty to take copies of the account of L. R. Curtis Bank Nova Scotia, R. A. Squires or Squires & Winter account, and the account of R. A. Squires at the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Application was made under Sec. 5, chap. 92 of the Bankers' Act. Mr. Howley objected that the Act was not applicable to the proceedings. After considerable argument on the matter the Commissioner made the order and allowed two days' notice.

The Attorney General then resumed his cross-examination of Mr. Curtis. He noted the witness had taken of his first conversation with Mr. Miller on the subject of the latter's statement. These notes were made at the request of Sir Richard Squires, the witness said. They were written on a House of Assembly pad two hours or so after the conversation. The witness could not accurately place the date when he first told Mr. Lewis about having made these notes. At first he thought it was on the previous Sunday and then he decided it was on Saturday. The Commissioner remarked that there was a great variation in the witness' evidence, and it called him to wonder when so many people could not remember what transpired in 1920. The Attorney General then took the memo, which read as follows:

MEMO SUBMITTED BY L. R. CURTIS
ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON RE
INTERVIEW WITH MILLER.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20, 1923.
Mr. J. J. Miller called me by phone at about 12.15, and asked for my appointment. I told him to come right over. He came to the office; and stated that he wished me to arrange an interview with Sir Richard Squires for him. I told him I would see what I could do and phone him. He said that if he and Sir Richard could get together for a few minutes, he was sure the matter between Squires and Curtis could be adjusted. I suggested that he go back to his office and I would phone him if I could arrange an appointment for him.

When speaking to Sir Richard I asked him if he would see Miller, who was very anxious to have a short appointment. Sir Richard replied that under the circumstances he could not see Miller; that Miller was a witness against him in the matter of the Meany charges, and that an interview would be improper and out of the question.

After Sir Richard's departure I phoned Miller and asked him to come and see me. I did not wish to bluntly refuse him an appointment with Sir Richard without explaining why such was out of the question. He came over immediately and stayed from one until nearly two.

I explained that Sir Richard could not give him an interview, and that when the matter was mentioned he would not hear of it. That if he wished to reach the ears of Sir Richard, his best course would be to talk the matter over with one of Sir Richard's friends who might in turn take the matter up with Sir Richard. I further said that I was unauthorized to discuss any phase of this matter on behalf of Sir Richard Squires, but that should he (Miller) care to discuss any phase of the matter with me, I would if the matter seemed to me worth mentioning, casually bring it up when next speaking with him on political matters. I told him further that as far as he (Miller) personally was concerned I had never heard Sir Richard say anything unfriendly but that on the other hand he had often referred to the splendid political support he had had in 1919 and since from Mr. Miller, Jean, his sister, and his large circle of friends at Bell Island—and that, under the circumstances it was probably against his personal wishes that at the present time he could not hold any discussion with him; that he would be a witness at the enquiry, "Is there a way out anyway?" I asked.

MILLER—"Yes there is. I have consulted with two K.C.'s—one in Halifax and one in Montreal, and they tell me that there is." That there has been no charge made against Squires that cannot be explained satisfactorily.

CURTIS—"Well, how can it be done?"
MILLER—"Easily. Meany will go in the box and explain that the money was given Jean during Sir Richard's absence, and that Squires knew nothing about it, or at least to Meany's knowledge. That he gave the money to Miss Miller, and that Squires had referred from the examination that the witness had told Miller that Sir Richard considered it improper that he should interview a witness against him. He (Curtis) suggested that

the Department represented by her cheques or I.O.U.'s, and he has threatened to have her sent to jail for getting money under false pretences unless she shows that Squires authorized her to obtain it. She is very anxious to get clear of the whole business and doesn't want to go in the box and give evidence against Squires."

CURTIS—"But can that be arranged? Has Meany agreed?"
MILLER—"Meany is anxious to have the matter cleared up. Warren, Foote and Barnes have failed to keep their promise to him."

CURTIS—"Why, did they promise him anything?"
MILLER—"Yes, they did. He was to be reinstated."

CURTIS (Laughingly)—"And when they did the dirty work, they went back on him?"

MILLER—"Yes. But Meany has the goods on Warren, also on Barnes and Foote. He is going to kill Warren anyway for going back on him."

CURTIS—"Is that one of the conditions of settlement?"

MILLER—"No. I think he will get back on Warren anyhow. Warren went back on him."

CURTIS—"Meany seems to have the goods on everyone. But who wants the enquiry settled? Who is trying to settle it anyway? I don't think Squires is worrying about it."

MILLER—"Coker wants it settled. The Government wants it fixed up."

CURTIS—"Why, aren't they satisfied with Warren?"

MILLER—"No. The West Indies Bill fixed him. And besides he is retiring from politics. He is to get the High Commissioner's job in London."

CURTIS—"But who is pushing you—Collishaw?"

MILLER—"I can't just say, but they want it settled. And there is not a man in the Government strong enough to go to Squires and negotiate with him. Not one. I went to Modell, but he wouldn't see Squires. I want to get the matter cleared up. It makes no difference to me. I am not in it. I am not even a witness—but Jean is in it and Meany wants to get clear of it."

CURTIS—"But are you sure Meany is prepared to clear Squires?"
MILLER—"Yes. Meany and I have fought over this. I have asked him 'What is the use of fighting Squires? But he maintains that Squires let him down. I fought against it from the start. Meany was at my office just before he met Warren, Cashing, Coker and Higgins. He left me in the car and went in with them. I put it up to him 'Will you settle with Squires if I can arrange it?' He said he would."

CURTIS—"Is that definite? When?"

MILLER—"Yes, definite. Just before he went to Harbour Deep a week ago. He authorized me to make a settlement, to see Squires and that if I could arrange an interview—it might be done, without even an appointment—in a very few minutes the whole matter could be arranged and Meany would be a real friend to Squires."

CURTIS—"You are satisfied that Meany still feels that way?"
MILLER—"Yes. He will make that settlement gladly."

CURTIS—"You have said what Meany and Jean will do. How about Squires? What does Meany want?"
MILLER—"Meany" wants reinstatement. He has been disgraced before the public. He wants to be put back as Controller. If the people prefer not to have him as controller pension Scott and make him Supt. of Postal Telegraphs. Give him any position of equal value in the Civil Service."

CURTIS—"There is no other of equal value."

MILLER—"Equal in salary."

CURTIS—"And what about the money?"

MILLER—"That must be paid back through me or anyone else. There will be no difficulty about that. The British Empire Steel doesn't mind \$20,000 more or less to have this straightened out, but the money can be paid back; the cheques returned and everything will be settled."

CURTIS—"You are sure of that?"

MILLER—"Yes."

CURTIS—"But what about the other charges?"

MILLER—"No particulars of these have been given anybody but Higgins and to him professionally only. They can be easily disposed of. I will not be a witness except for the Steel Company. Any payments made by me to Sir Richard will be represented as campaign subscriptions."

The Attorney General referred to the different paragraphs and questioned the witness about the various statements contained therein. It was learned from the examination that the witness had told Miller that Sir Richard considered it improper that he should interview a witness against him. He (Curtis) suggested that

Miller could best reach the ear of Sir Richard through somebody else. He did not think it an improper course, and he let Miller know that he was not authorized by Sir Richard to discuss the matter. (Alteration of statement). Whatever information he (Curtis) brought to Sir Richard was done on his own initiative. He told Miller that Sir Richard had often referred to the splendid political support which he and his friends on Bell Island gave in order to let him down easy and show that it was not for political reasons that Sir Richard refused the interview. The witness told the Commissioner that although he had asked Sir Richard what the charges against him were he did not know what he said in reply. He had told him when he realized that he did not know what the charges were. The witness said that up until December 20th, 1923 he was under the impression that Sir Richard did not know the charges. He (Curtis) did not put out what they were until he had the conversation with Miller in December.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—"You lived in St. John's all this period and you did not hear of any charges against Sir Richard?"

A—"I had heard rumors."

In answer to a further question, witness said that he did not think of asking Sir Richard, his partner about the rumors as he thought the matter was purely political. In the memo the witness had recorded that he said to Miller, "Is there a way out anyway," and being read, the Commissioner made some effort to find out what was its meaning. The only explanation he got from the witness was that Miller had come to him with a plan and he was asking him about it. The Commissioner became impatient with the answer and retorted: "A plan of what? He had not with him a plan of a trip to?" The witness then recalled that Miller's plan consisted of suggestions. In answer to some further question the witness said that at the time he understood that the whole affair was a conspiracy between Meany and Miss Miller against Sir Richard.

The Attorney General continued quoting from the memo and asking explanations. Many times much amusement was caused, particularly at the mention of Mr. Collishaw. The witness said that Collishaw had told him he too was anxious to have a settlement made. The memo was then put in with the other exhibits.

MR. WARREN asked Curtis what he meant by saying in his written record of certain proceedings, "Is there a way in or out?"

MR. CURTIS could not offer any intelligent explanation saying it was hard for him to express his thoughts at the time.

ATTORNEY GENERAL then read extracts from Curtis' record which added to the confusion of the evidence.

MR. CURTIS was then permitted to read a portion of the letter wherein it was pointed out that Mrs. Harsant did not wish to go in the box and give evidence against Sir Richard Squires.

By a statement "Could it be arranged," he meant could Mrs. Harsant be persuaded to tell the truth or would she side with Mr. Meany. He (Curtis) after further revelations understood that Meany at a particular time had a change of heart that he would later go back on Warren, that he (Meany) had the goods on everyone including Sir W. Coker, Warren and others in public life.

MR. WARREN reading the record in question agreed that it should go in evidence. It was accordingly accepted.

MR. CURTIS testified that he telephoned Mr. Miller's house on last Sunday forenoon and Sunday afternoon.

THE STUBS MYSTERY SOLVED.

MR. WARREN concluded cross-examination of Mr. Curtis. Mr. Lewis resumed for the purpose of verifying some statements made by witness this forenoon, after which he was permitted to leave the stand.

MRS. HARSANT was recalled by ATTORNEY GENERAL to enquire into the cheque book and stubs which she caused to be made out a short while previous to the time her brother sold the \$46,000 Star cheque. She made out all the cheques, together and not on the date they bear. The cheques did not come out of a spare cheque book because they are numbered. She did not number the cheques as produced and shown to witness.

ATTORNEY GENERAL asked the COMMISSIONER to compare the cheques with the stubs, which Mr. Howley later agreed that the cheques in question never came out of the book in which the stubs were contained.

MRS. HARSANT in answer to question said she did not understand how or when they were numbered. Witness in reference to two fire claims notified Sir Richard Squires of the necessity of signing a cheque before 3 p.m. on a mentioned day as she desired to pay back the \$3,125.00 which she borrowed from Mr. Meany and had promised that it would be paid back on the afternoon. She made out the cheque and presented it to Sir Rich-

ard for his signature but he did not give it back to her. Witness testified that on one occasion she asked her brother for \$5,000 and he put a draft through on her brother Bob. She got the cheque and used it for Sir Richard. Because of the unpleasantness caused by her failure to secure this money she was compelled to leave her home and go boarding. Whilst she was boarding, Sir Richard paid her the sum of \$40,000 monthly.

Adjustment was taken until ten-thirty on Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S PROCEEDINGS.

H. B. GILLIS is in box.

When the morning's proceedings opened, Mrs. Harsant again went in the box and put in evidence a post card referred to in previous evidence. The message on it was:

Mr. McInnis would like to see you this morning. He would come up to your house, or would you refer to go to the hotel?

KELLY BUTLER.

Following the admission of this post card, the examination of Mrs. Harsant concluded. Mr. Lewis not wishing to cross-examine.

HUGH B. GILLIS, Superintendent of Ore Mines and Quarries with Biscoe, was next called, and was examined by Mr. Hunt. He said he had known Sir Richard Squires since 1919. Meany since 1920, and Miller since 1920. He had met Mrs. Harsant in 1920, in a motor car, opposite the Croable Hotel. A party of D.I. & S. Co. Directors were then in St. John's arranging a new ore pit agreement with the Government. There had been a previous agreement which had expired in 1919. Witness said he had known that Miss Miller was in Squire's office. He had attended meetings between the directors and the Executive but at first there were no results and Mr. McDougall and Mr. McInnis then returned to Sydney.

BANK MANAGER'S THREAT.

Witness said he had received no instructions concerning advances to Sir Richard Squires, but in October 1920, he had conversations with reference to financial transactions with Squires.

Q—"What was said?"
A—"Mr. McDonald told me that he and Miller had signed a note for Squires and that Mr. Glennie had threatened to put it in the hands of a solicitor for collection if it were not paid at maturity. I was told by Miller and McDonald that the note was a personal matter which did not involve the company in any way. Mr. McDonald said that rather than have any trouble about it he would try to pay it personally but I suggested that if a renewal could be obtained, Sir Richard might take it up himself. To further questions, witness said I thought Mr. Wolvin would use his influence to have the note renewed. I did not know at that time that the Company's stamp was on the note. Wolvin said he would see what could be done about a renewal of the note for three months.

Q—"When did you return to Sydney?"
A—"I returned to Sydney in 1920."

Q—"When did you next come to Newfoundland?"
A—"I returned to St. John's, I think about April, 1921."

Q—"Did you receive any message from Miller between these dates?"
A—"Yes, I think I did."

Asked if he could produce the messages, witness said he was not sure whether he could or not.

HOW THE NOTE WAS PAID.

Questioned concerning a telegram he had received, witness said it was a request to obtain a further renewal of the note.

Q—"Do you remember if Mr. McInnis' name was mentioned?"
A—"I think it was, in connection with the requested renewal of the note. I have no recollection of my reply to the message, but I asked our Montreal Office to take the matter up with the Bank of Nova Scotia. Later, McInnis told me the note had been paid, between February and April 1921."

Q—"Did he say by whom it had been paid?"
A—"No. I do not think I bothered any more about it."

Q—"When you came to St. John's in April, 1921, did you see Miller and mention the note to him?"
A—"I think I remarked to him that the note had been paid."

Q—"What did Miller say?"
A—"He told me it had been paid from the Wabana Payroll account."

Q—"What did you say to that?"
A—"I told Miller it was a very serious thing to have the payroll account disbursed in that manner. Afterwards I decided that the best way out was to transfer the \$20,000 to Sydney and have it disposed of there. I told Miller to put through a special voucher."

Q—"Could this be done without the knowledge of any superior officers of the company?"
A—"When I returned to Sydney some time later, I told them all about it."

RECOMMENDED INVESTIGATION.

Q—"Was a further sum of \$26,000 mentioned?"

A—"Yes, at a later interview. I was in Newfoundland several months that year."

WITNESS was shown a special voucher form of the Company, which

showed the transfer of \$20,000. It had been made out by Miller.

Q—"Would that amount come under the notice of your auditors?"

A—"They asked me about it when I was in Sydney in August. I told Mr. Tasman, our chief accountant, that Miller had made some expenditures for which he appeared to have authority from some of our superior officers, and that before doing anything with the amount at Sydney, they had better investigate the matter."

Q—"Did Miller mention any names to you in connection with his hinted authority?"

A—"Yes. He mentioned McInnis and Sir W. D. Reid."

Q—"Did you communicate with either?"
A—"No, not at any time."

Q—"Did Tasman want further information?"

A—"Late in 1921, I mentioned the matter to Merrill, our General manager, and told him I thought it was a Squires' accommodation note. I asked him what I had better do about it, but he said he did not know anything about it."

KEPT STAR CHEQUE.

Continuing, witness said the \$46,000 was mentioned to him in Wabana. Miller showed him the Daily Star cheque for that amount, and told of the amount he (Miller) had paid out, and how he had given notes and drafts to Squires for the cheque.

Q—"When was this?"

A—"In the summer of 1921. Miller told me the cheque was no good."

Q—"Then you knew at that time that the \$46,000 had come out of the company's funds?"

A—"I did not know if all of it had."

Further questioned, witness said: I refused to have anything to do with the further \$26,000 because I wanted to see what my people would say about the first amount before I transferred any more. I was greatly surprised to learn about his amount.

Q—"What became of the Star cheque?"

A—"At Miller's request, I took care of it for him. I did not turn it into the company until a few days before I left to come here this year. I knew that as negotiable, it was valueless."

Q—"Had you any conversations with Mrs. Harsant?"

A—"Yes, one in the summer of 1921. She wanted to know if I could arrange for a \$5,000 accommodation note."

Q—"When did you come back to St. John's after August 1921?"
A—"I think the next time was in 1922. I received a lot of letters and telegrams mostly from Miller, after I left St. John's in 1921. I sent replies to some of them."

Commissioner reads telegram as follows:

To J. J. Miller.
"Read your message and letter to McDougall just before he left for Montreal. If anything will be arranged, it will be directed by him. He Montreal to-day."

(Sgd.) H. B. GILLIS.

Q—"What was the matter referred to in this message?"
A—"I cannot recollect. Most of the messages I received from Miller referred to the \$26,000. They were chiefly requests to have this sum transferred from the Wabana accounts. Some question arose about the production of the originals, and witness said they were on their way to St. John's."

COMPANY'S "WORST DEAL."

The following letter, written in 1922, was put in and read by the Commissioner:

Personal and Confidential.
Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.
Head Office & Works, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.
March 28, 1922.

Mr. J. J. Miller,
Chief Accountant,
Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.,
East Wabana, Nfld.

Dear Miller—I received your message in code in reference to the matter mentioned in my letter of February 10th. I was not clear on the matter of your first telegram and had an enquiry from Montreal where the Vice-President had received a similar message and he was likewise unable to determine exactly what was wanted.

I do not know the details of the understanding recently reached, but I do not believe we can stand any further outlay on this account. I have no desire to be mixed up in any further negotiations of the kind and asked Montreal to deal direct with the other parties. Up to the present there have been a very heavy outlay on this account, and as this was the first time we were ever asked to do anything of this nature in Newfoundland, I expect our people will carefully analyze their bargain before making further outlays. For the expenditure we have already made we have received a worst deal ever given anywhere under similar conditions, and it will be many years before we get any returns on the outlay.

Under conditions where our plants were operating on a normal basis, I believe our people might undertake some further obligations for I am given to understand that there is a pressing need for assistance in that direction, but with our plants idle, our cost lines on part time and money as tight as it is now, I do not think there is any hope for much assistance as

LEAGUE HOCKEY.

TO-NIGHT'S MATCH IS POSTPONED

OWING TO ICE CONDITIONS.
Tickets issued for to-night will be good for the night on which Guards vs. St. Bon's game is played.

ST. JOHN'S SKATING RINK CO., LTD.
P. E. OUTERBRIDGE,
Secretary-Treasurer.

New arrivals in

English China
Tea Sets

They are the prettiest patterns yet. Artistic designs are predominant. The matter then resolves itself into a question of choosing.

And the price

from

\$6.50

For a 21-piece English China Tea Set of exquisite beauty.

We have also a full assortment of Japanese China Tea Sets, ranging from

\$3.25 to \$6.75

These prices are lower than the same qualities can be sold for elsewhere.

The

Royal Stores,

Ltd.

Crockery Department.

Jan 23, 31, m.t.s.

Private matter being dealt with direct between head office and Government official.

J. J. MILLER.

COMMISSIONER—Not very easy to understand some of it. These code messages are somewhat difficult.

This was followed by the production of a letter to Miller from Gillis. This, too, was read.

THOUGHT THEY WERE CRAZY.

MR. HUNT—Do you remember meeting Meany and Miller on their Montreal trip early in 1923?

A—"Yes, I met them at Truro and travelled to Montreal with them. They had the drawing room of a Pullman car. McDougall was also on the train. I spoke to Miller and Meany, and they told me they had a proposition from the Newfoundland Government for the consideration of the Company, which involved a lot of money, and they were a bit shy about putting it up to McDougall. They asked me if they would approach him on the train or wait until they arrived in Montreal. I think they told me \$200,000 was the amount involved for certain concessions. It was to be paid by our people to Meany and Miller, for some one, but whom I did not know. I asked McDougall to see them.

(Continued on page 14.)

BORN.

On Jan. 28th, twin (son and daughter) to Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson, Kemmunt Road.

On Sunday, Jan. 27th, a son to Mr. and Mrs. E. Antle.

DIED.

After a short illness, Tasker P. son of Tasker and Henrietta Cook, aged 26½ years. Funeral at 2.30 p.m. Saturday from his late residence, Forest Road.

Last evening, after a short illness, at her daughter's residence, Cove Road, Catherine, relict of the late John Wade, leaving to mourn 7 daughters and 1 son. Interment at Flatrock. Canadian and Boston papers please copy.

IN LOVING MEMORY

of my dear mother, Elizabeth Murrin, who died Jan. 30, 1921. May the Sacred