

Q. Why not say enlarge it—A. In the event of our wanting to enlarge? What we would do, is this: We would decide our maximum requirements. We would not absorb all the space in the building, and the rest of that space could be rented on long-term leases, if we liked, and we could retain the rest of the space, and the balance between our maximum requirements and minimum requirements would be on relatively short leases.

Q. You have taken into consideration too the deposition you made with regard to the fact that within five years this property will be worth a great deal more than it cost you?—A. Oh, yes.

By Mr. Milne:

Q. When did you expect the building to be occupied?—A. Well, I do not know exactly, but I should think within six months or so.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions? If not, we will adjourn until Monday.

The witness retired.

The Committee adjourned.

COMMITTEE ROOM 231,
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
MONDAY, June 23, 1924.

The Select Standing Committee on National Railways and Shipping met at 10.30 o'clock a.m., Mr. W. D. Euler, M.P., Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think we have a quorum. On Friday, when we adjourned, it was the desire to call Major Bell this morning. Sir Henry (Drayton) do you wish to go on with Major Bell?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Unless it is the desire of the Committee to take another witness or to go on with Sir Henry Thornton.

Mr. KYTE: Let us take Major Bell.

Major G. A. BELL, called and examined.

By Sir Henry Drayton:

Q. What was your first connection with the Scribe Hotel?—A. You mean when I first went overseas?

Q. The first thing you ever heard about it. Let us start with the birth?—A. The first time I ever heard of it was on April 28th, 1923. I did not know it was the Scribe Hotel or what property it was. I knew that Sir Henry (Thornton) had secured a property over there.

Q. April 28th?—A. April 25th, I should say.

Q. That was the time you sent over \$200,000? Did you have anything to do with deciding that matter or was your action purely departmental?—A. Departmental.

Q. In other words, you knew nothing about it?—A. Only the \$200,000. I had nothing to do with the balance.

Q. You knew that \$200,000 was to go?—A. Yes.

Q. At that time did you know what the total price was?—A. No.

Q. All you know is you were told to send over \$200,000, and you sent it?—A. Yes.

Q. Then what was the next thing?—A. The next I heard of it was when it came up in the House—the night of the estimates.

Q. That was the very next thing?—A. Yes.