

wrong. I do not know. It may be that the Government was justified in dealing with Aronovici, or it may be that Aronovici was not the type of man that the Government was safe in leaving the matter with.

Mr. KYTE: All this is perfectly gratuitous for the purpose of getting it on the record. (To Sir Henry Drayton) You have no evidence to support that; you only think you can create an impression—

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friend is all wrong. I say frankly that I do not know, and I am trying to find out.

The CHAIRMAN: You are not through with the witness?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Please proceed.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I say I would like to get this information with a view of trying to get the justification for the change at the extra expenditure of money.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest you ask the witness—

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: He says he does not know. Sir Henry (Thornton) says he will get it tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: Then proceed with any further questions.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, everything in Paris hinges on this.

The CHAIRMAN: I would say you can only get this information by proceeding with the witness.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We can come back to this afterwards, but I think we will waste time this way.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Well, let us go back to Aronovici, and let us get in as chronological and definite order as we can just exactly what Aronovici claimed in connection with your negotiation.—A. As to the amount he claimed, Sir Henry (Drayton)?

Q. Yes, the full amount Aronovici claimed?—A. When I first met Aronovici, he was keen to go on with this contract; that the railway should take up the space that would be required by any Government offices, and then he wanted to go ahead and lease the balance of the building. On going to Paris I decided the best thing to do was to take the building over into our own name and get rid of Aronovici altogether, and go ahead with our own repairs.

Q. What prompted you to that determination? For what reason were you determined to get rid of Aronovici?—A. If Aronovici could exploit the building and make money out of it, we certainly could do the same thing.

Q. Then how far had you got along with the question of exploiting the building at that time? Let us get the date when you determined to get rid of Aronovici?—A. What date did I decide to get rid of him?

Q. Yes?—A. I suppose two or three weeks after I got over there.

Q. That would be about when?—A. In September sometime, sometime about the middle of September.

Q. Then how far had you gone on in connection with, as you say, exploiting the building, in September?—A. I decided we should lease the offices and we could go ahead and repair the building just as well as Aronovici. One thing that determined me that he should not have it was his idea of having a hotel put back. I thought it would be a bad thing for the offices.

Q. Had you any firm offer for renting?—A. No, I had not gone after it.

Q. Had you seen any real estate people with a view of getting their views as to rents or value?—A. Yes, in a general discussion in Mr. Archibald's office.

Q. Had you seen any real estate people?—A. No, I did not look up any real estate people.