

*By Mr. Stewart:*

Q. You could reduce your space to less than the whole ground floor?—A. We might, yes. We might reduce it materially.

Q. You do not know what this concern had in mind when they made the offer allowing you the free rental of the space you require?—A. No, I do not. That is what I asked Mr. Archibald to go into at once and develop the details. I do have an intimation from a gentleman who is very familiar with Paris property, who is in business on Fifth Avenue, New York, as an importer, that probably some one of the large department stores in Paris would like very much to get such a site as this on the Boulevard de Capéchine. His estimate of the value of the property was 60,000,000 francs.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Is that the same gentleman whose name you would not give us?

The WITNESS: No, it is not the same. This was merely in conversation with him a couple of months ago.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Have you any objection to giving his name?—A. Yes; I won't give it.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: When Major Bell takes the stand I want to go into these figures as to the size of the property.

Major BELL: I gave that to the reporter yesterday and it is included in the evidence.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I have not got the notes yet.

Major BELL: They will be printed in yesterday's proceedings. They were 126,994 square feet, the building is 105 by 180½.

Mr. HARRIS: Will Major Bell depose exactly what instructions were left in Paris with regard to the remodelling of this building?

Major BELL: No; a great deal will depend on the tenant. I can tell you generally, that necessarily the instructions were left to the men on the ground, Mr. Archibald and Mr. Young, but the general instructions were that the Government offices and the railway—

Mr. HARRIS: Perhaps I had better ask Sir Henry Thornton.

*By Mr. Harris:*

Q. What is the policy of the Canadian National directorate with regard to remodelling this building?—A. There are two things which can be done, and it depends a good deal on what the tenant wants. You can either rent the space, as it stands, to a tenant and let him remodel it, under suitable provisions, to suit his own requirements, or we can find out what he wants in a general way, and put the space which he will occupy in shape for occupation. In the latter event, naturally the rental will be much more than in the former case. It depends a great deal on what the tenant himself wishes, because sometimes a tenant would rather rent a certain amount of space and fix it up to suit himself, than permit us to do so. That is a matter to be decided. We might even do both in different parts of the building.

Q. In lieu of the fact that it may be necessary, within a few years, to "trim your sails" as you say, with regard to the policy of the continent, what is the policy of the Canadian National Railway directorate with regard to the length of time these leases to tenants will run?—A. The lease to a tenant would not affect us, because even if we reduce our force on the Continent, we would still want to retain our tenants, so it would not affect the tenants. It would simply mean in the event of our being obliged to materially reduce our force—

[Sir Henry Thornton.]