

## The Enquiry Conducted By T. Hollis Walker, K.C.

(Continued from page 7.)

Butler sent to you one day with reference to an appointment, have you that postcard?

A—Yes, Mr. Warren.

COMMISSIONER—Do you want to put that in?

MR. WARREN—Yes, sir; it was called for by my learned friend.

COMMISSIONER—Postcard dated; there is no date, it does not seem to have come through the post.

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

(Exhibit put in and marked.)  
MR. LEWIS—Do I understand that the direct examination of Mrs. Harsant is now complete?

COMMISSIONER—I understand so. MR. LEWIS—Well, I don't think I care to cross-examine Mrs. Harsant.

COMMISSIONER—Do you wish to ask any questions, Mr. Jenks?

MR. JENKS—No, sir.

COMMISSIONER—Who is the next witness? Have you another witness ready?

Examination-in-chief of Mr. Gillis by Mr. C. E. Hunt.

Q—How long have you been employed with the Dominion Iron and Steel Company?

A—Continually now since 1909.

Q—What position do you hold with them?

A—Superintendent of Ore Mines and Quarries.

COMMISSIONER—That is your present position?

A—Yes.

Q—Are you now in the employ of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company or the BESSCO?

A—Dominion Iron and Steel Co.

MR. HUNT—Do your duties in connection with that position bring you to Newfoundland very often?

A—Yes. Sometimes eight or ten times a year.

Q—I take it that this brings you to St. John's as well as Bell Island?

A—Usually I pass through St. John's on the way to Bell Island.

Q—Are you acquainted with Sir Richard Squires?

A—Yes.

Q—For how long have you been acquainted with him?

A—I think I met him first in 1919 or 1920. I am not quite sure of the date.

Q—Are you acquainted with Mr. J. T. Meaney?

A—Yes.

Q—How long have you been acquainted with him?

A—I think I met him first about 1920 or 1921; in the Spring of 1921 I think I am not quite sure.

Q—Are you acquainted with Mr. James Miller?

A—Yes.

Q—How long have you been acquainted with him?

A—Oh I think I met Mr. Miller for the first time in 1905 or 1906 at Bell Island when I was down there for the first time.

Q—Are you acquainted with Mrs. Harsant?

A—I met Mrs. Harsant. I think the first time was 1920 about June.

Q—Did you meet her in connection with business matters?

A—I met her when Mr. McInnis and Mr. McDougall were down in May or June of 1920.

COMMISSIONER—When Mr. McInnis and Mr. McDougall were down here?

A—Yes sir.

MR. HUNT—Were you introduced to her then?

A—Yes, I think so.

Q—Do you remember who introduced you?

A—Her brother I think.

Q—Do you remember where the introduction took place?

A—I think it was in a motor car in front of the Groshe Hotel.

Q—I think there were several directors and officials here besides Mr. McInnis?

A—Mr. McInnis was here as a director of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company and Mr. R. E. Cham-

bers was here for the Nova Scotia Company; his position was the superintendent of the Mines of the Nova Scotia Company.

Q—Can you remember why it was those parties came to St. John's at that time in May, 1920?

A—They came down to try to make an arrangement or agreement with the Government for the exportation of ore; to fix the export tax on ore.

Q—When you were introduced to Miss Miller—

COMMISSIONER—Will you tell me before we leave this; would you tell me, you have been with the Dominion Iron and Steel Company for some time; had they had any previous agreement with the Government?

A—Yes, a ten years' agreement.

Q—When did that expire?

A—December, 1919.

Q—Dealing with the same class of matters?

A—Yes.

Q—When it expired then negotiations were opened for a fresh agreement; had they been going on all the year?

A—There was an election in the fall of 1919 and I don't think there were any negotiations previous to the elections.

Q—The whole of the year 1920 this subject was being negotiated about?

A—I had no knowledge of that; I was instructed to meet Mr. McInnis and Mr. McDougall in St. John's in case they might need me.

Q—You would not be taking any part?

A—No.

MR. HUNT—Did you know what occupation Miss Miller had then?

A—I thought she was in Sir Richard Squires' office or had something to do with it.

Q—Jim Miller was in St. John's then. He was chief accountant at Bell Island?

A—Yes.

Q—Do you know if he had been ordered to come here for the Company?

A—No, I don't know that.

Q—Were you with the party all the time?

A—I did not come down to Newfoundland with them.

Q—Were you with them here?

A—I was in the same hotel but I was not with them all the time.

Q—Do you know if they had any consultations with the Prime Minister or any members of the Government?

A—Yes, we had, I think, two meetings with the Executive; I attended two meetings with Mr. McInnis and Mr. McDougall and Mr. Chambers; we met the Executive as a whole.

COMMISSIONER—These meetings had reference to the terms of the new contract?

A—Yes.

Q—Where were those meetings held?

A—In the Council Chamber.

COMMISSIONER—Do you know the result of those meetings?

A—There was no result; we had no definite answer.

Q—Not at that time.

MR. HUNT—What happened afterwards as far as you are concerned?

A—Mr. McDougall and Mr. McInnis went back to Canada and I think I remained over at Bell Island for some time.

Q—Did Mr. McDougall go over to Bell Island?

A—I don't think he did; he was with the Scotia Company.

Q—Who of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company went over?

A—I was the only one, Mr. McInnis did not go over.

Q—You went home from Bell Island?

A—Yes.

Q—When did you come back again?

A—To Newfoundland; I was back at Wabana in October 1920.

Q—Did you, between May and October receive any letters or telegrams from Mr. Gillis or Mrs. Harsant?

A—I may have received some in connection with the work over there, I don't know.

Q—Did you receive any in connection with amounts to be advanced to Sir Richard?

A—I did not.

Q—Between May and October?

A—No.

COMMISSIONER—You have received neither a letter nor a telegram?

A—No.

MR. HUNT—Then you came over again in October 1920?

A—Yes.

Q—Did you meet Mr. James Miller?

A—Yes.

Q—Where did you meet him?

A—At the Steel Company's office at Wabana.

Q—Did you have any conversations with reference to any financial transactions with Sir Richard?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—With whom?

COMMISSIONER—With Mr. Miller. The question was did you see Mr. Miller and have any conversation with him.

WITNESS—Mr. McDougall, our acting manager over there, advised me

that he had received a note from the Bank of Nova Scotia. That a note which he and Mr. Miller had signed for Sir Richard, was then due; that they had received word from Mr. Glenne that unless the note was paid at maturity it would be put in the hands of Mr. Blackwood for collection.

MR. HUNT—Was the note due or about to be due?

A—I think it was about due. I am not quite sure. I was there about the first week in October.

COMMISSIONER—There was no note that was about to become due, was there, Mr. Hunt?

MR. HUNT—Yes sir, the \$20,000 note would be due in October.

WITNESS—We sent for Mr. Miller to come in the office.

MR. HUNT—What conversation took place then?

A—I asked him about the note and under what circumstances they had signed it; he said it was a personal matter altogether and the Company was not involved in any way. Then I asked him if there was any possibility of having it renewed until Sir Richard came home.

Q—Whom did you ask?

A—The both of them, and they said they did not think so. Mr. McInnis was pretty disturbed about the matter, and said that rather than have any trouble about it, he would try and pay it himself. I told him I did not think there was any necessity for that, if they could get the note renewed, as Sir Richard would probably take it up on his return. I did not think there was much chance of getting the Bank to renew it, but I asked them to wait until Mr. Wolvin arrived in Wabana, and I would ask him to use his influence to have the note renewed.

MR. HUNT—Did you know he was coming then?

A—Yes.

Q—When was that?

A—The following day—I think it was the 5th or 7th of October.

Q—Did you see the note?

A—No, as the note was at the bank naturally.

Q—Was it brought to your attention?

A—Yes.

Q—The Company's stamp was on that note?

A—Yes.

Q—When did you first know that?

A—About the day before I left Sydney to come down here.

Q—That was all of your conversation at Wabana?

A—Yes.

Q—When Mr. Wolvin arrived, I asked him to use his influence at the Bank to get the note extended.

Q—What was his office in the Company?

A—He was President of the Company. I asked him if he would get Mr. Glenne to take the matter up with the Head Office of the Bank of Nova Scotia to have this note renewed for another three months, and he said he would see what could be done.

Q—Do you know of your own knowledge, if he saw Mr. Glenne?

A—I have no knowledge whatever.

Q—Was anything ever paid by Miller of any other amounts?

A—Yes, he told me he had made some personal advances to Sir Richard.

Q—Did he state the amount?

A—No.

Q—Was anything said as to Bank accounts?

A—Well, then after you had seen Mr. Wolvin, did anything take place?

A—At that particular time nothing.

Q—I take it that you returned to Sydney?

A—Yes.

Q—When did you return?

A—Do you mean to St. John's?

A—No, to Sydney.

A—I am not quite sure when I did. Probably about the last of October.

Q—When did you come back to Wabana?

A—I came back in April, 1921.

Q—Between October, 1920, and April of 1921 did you receive any messages, any letters or telegrams from Miller with reference to the Squires matter?

A—Yes, I think there were messages sent me at that time.

Q—Have you these messages or letters?

A—I don't think I have. There was one message sent to me, which I may have here, but I am not quite sure.

Q—I can't find the message here.

Q—If you find them you may bring them.

A—I am expecting to go through some more files.

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Mr. Hunt produced document to witness:

Q—Do you remember having received that message, Mr. Gillis? There is no date on it.

A—Yes, I think I can remember. This is the one I had in mind. I think that came to Sydney about February.

COMMISSIONER—A telegram, is it?

WITNESS—Yes, it is supposed to be a copy. I don't know that it is the exact wording of the message I received. I have an impression of a request from Miller for the further renewal of the note about February.

Q—Does that purport to be a copy from the Telegraph Office?

MR. HUNT—No, sir. It is just a carbon copy.

COMMISSIONER—You see, we are in difficulties about it if he says this is not a copy of what he received.

WITNESS—I can't say whether it is a copy or not.

COMMISSIONER—But did you get a telegram about that time?

A—About that time I remember there was a message from him, something like a request for renewal of the note.

COMMISSIONER—We shall see whether we can get the terms of it.

MR. HUNT—My learned friends admit it is a copy.

MR. JENKS—We found a copy of what purports to be a copy of Mr. Gillis's on file here. We are ready to admit that it is a copy.

COMMISSIONER—He says he cannot find the original, and you have it on his own file, or a copy of it.

(Witness examines document.)

WITNESS—(To Mr. Jenks): No, this is another.

MR. HUNT—(To Mr. Lewis): Do you object to this going in?

MR. LEWIS—No; I don't object.

COMMISSIONER—I think that as the original has been accounted for—it is lost—you can ask Mr. Gillis what his recollection of the telegram is.

MR. HUNT—What is your recollection of the telegram?

A—My recollection is that the message I received contained a request from Mr. Miller for the further renewal of the note, asking me to use my influence to get the note further renewed.

COMMISSIONER—Is your recollection that that only was in the telegram?

A—That is the only impression I left with me. I can remember asking our people to use their influence to get the note extended.

Q—This same note?

A—I thought so.

Q—Extension of which had been refused in October?

A—Yes, that was the one. They asked Mr. Wolvin to use his influence to get the note extended.

Q—Did you know it was never extended?

A—No. Not until this Enquiry.

Q—It seems odd to me that anybody should telegraph to you in February to get the note renewed when had been refused—finally refused in October.

A—That is my recollection of that message in February.

MR. HUNT—Do you remember if Mr. McInnis' note was mentioned in that message?

A—Yes, I believe it was mentioned in that message.

Q—Do you remember in what way?

A—I don't know whether it was to have it taken up with him to arrange for the extension or not. I am not quite clear on that.

Q—But you think it was in connection with arranging with the Bank of Nova Scotia for a further renewal of the note?

A—Yes.

Q—Mr. McInnis was a director of the Bank of Nova Scotia, was he not?

A—Yes.

Q—Do you remember if Sir W. D. Reid's name was mentioned in that message?

A—I don't remember.

Q—Did you reply to that message, Mr. Gillis?

A—I have no recollection of my reply. I know I asked the Montreal office if they would take this matter up for further renewal.

Q—You asked them if they would take the matter up?

A—Yes, with the Bank of Nova Scotia head office.

Q—Did you receive any reply?

A—No. I did not receive any written reply, but Mr. McInnis told me on his next visit to Sydney that when they made inquiries at head office, they found the note had been paid.

Q—When did he tell you that?

A—Some time between February and April.

Q—That this note had been paid?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—Paid by whom?

(Continued on page 1.)

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