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SATURDAY, the 19th inst., 1924

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The Enquiry Conducted by T. Hollis Walker, K.C.

(Continued from page 3.)

COMMISSIONER—Nobody ever does.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—You put these terms up to me and what was my answer?

A—Your answer was that you would have to discuss them with the leader of the Opposition.

Q—But whether I did discuss them or not, what was my final answer to those terms?

A—The last interview you and I had you said the leader of the Opposition was not prepared to be connected with any of those matters.

Q—Did I say yes or no to your terms?

A—You did not say yes or no. No neither accepted or rejected the terms; you did not appear to be in a position to say anything without consulting Mr. Higgins.

Q—I think you got a letter from me on the Sunday of that week. Have you got it with you now?

A—I have not got it here with me today.

Q—Did I say yes or no?

A—If I had the letter I could tell you exactly.

Q—Did I not say that unless your resignation was in by eleven o'clock the following morning, mine would be in at twelve?

COMMISSIONER—I would like to have that letter. Have you that letter?

A—Yes.

Q—Will you get it for me?

A—Certainly, I will have it for you tomorrow, if I can find it on my file.

Q—What happened after that?

WITNESS—At a meeting of Council, I think it was held on Friday night prior to the Saturday I informed the members of the Executive that I decided to resign.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—There was no meeting held then that I remember. Was the meeting called in the ordinary way, or was it a meeting of some of the members of the Council? When was this time you informed the Council or any member of it at a meeting that you proposed to resign?

COMMISSIONER—Was it a formal meeting or an informal meeting at which some individual members of the Council were present?

A—I am not sure whether they were all present or not.

Q—Were they all summoned to attend?

A—I think the meeting was called for regular business; I am not clear about it, but the records of the meeting can be procured.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Do you remember calling a meeting at Government House for noon Monday? And do you remember if the proper notices were sent out for a full Council Meeting at Government House on Monday at noon?

A—I do not remember; but there was a meeting called for twelve o'clock on Monday. On that Saturday night I think you left a letter at my house—I got it on Sunday I think—telling me that unless I resigned by a certain hour on Monday that you would resign at a certain hour. I went to Government House in the ordinary course and was informed that you and certain others had resigned.

Q—What did you do then?

A—We had a meeting of Council, as called. The business of the meeting was finalized. Minutes being read and signed and entered up, and I tendered by formal resignation to His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with my plan.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Were those terms submitted to anybody else but Sir Michael Cashin and Mr. Higgins?

A—I did not suggest that they were submitted to Sir Michael Cashin.

Q—Well I took it that you did?

MR. HOWLEY—There has been no mention of any terms being submitted to Sir Michael Cashin.

COMMISSIONER—Did you suggest to the witness that they were mentioned to Sir Michael Cashin?

ATTORNEY GENERAL—I thought I mentioned Sir Michael Cashin's name with that of Mr. Higgins.

Q—Now were they mentioned to Sir Michael Cashin as far as you know?

A—My recollection is that you said the terms were submitted to the leader of the Opposition, which person is in name Mr. Higgins; but in matter of fact Sir Michael Cashin.

Q—Probably so. Now did you authorize me to submit those terms of yours to Mr. Higgins?

A—You told me you would discuss them with Mr. Higgins, but I did

not authorize you to express my terms to the Opposition; I told you that if I wanted to talk terms with Mr. Higgins, I would do my own talking, and that in the event of any negotiations being made I would refer the matter to my solicitor, Mr. Howley, to be dealt with. You came back with the statement that you were closely in touch with Mr. Higgins than Mr. Howley was.

Q—Do you swear to that?

A—Absolutely.

Q—You have sworn to a great deal, COMMISSIONER—I must stop you as I stopped the other side.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—I have a recollection of that interview we had, but when we had that interview did not I leave you to understand that I was going to consult some members of the Opposition about those terms?

A—The impression you gave me was that you were not prepared to meet without first consulting Mr. Higgins in connection with any matter of importance.

Q—Did I tell you why?

A—I do not remember any reasons you gave.

Q—But you remember all the rest of it. Do you remember if I told you why it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins?

A—You may have done so.

Q—Do you remember if I said anything to you about continuing to follow you or support you, in view of the fact that Mr. Higgins knew of those charges were against you?

A—I do not catch your line of thought.

Q—Did I or did I not tell you that it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins because he knew the facts?

A—The mental result that I got from the conversation—

Q—Did I or did I not tell you that it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins because he knew the facts?

A—You may have done so, though you did not put it in those words; but you left me under the impression that it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins before you were prepared to decide upon any programme in connection with that matter.

Q—Do you remember if I told you why it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins?

A—No.

Q—Did I not tell you that it was necessary to consult Mr. Higgins because he knew the facts and the charges against you?

A—I do not remember your using these exact words, but I remember you making it clear to me that you had to consult with Mr. Higgins in connection with any matter of that sort.

Q—You do not deny that I mentioned that, I mentioned that to you?

A—Whatever the words were I told you I was quite prepared to hand over the administration to you and that I would look after specific matters of magnitude.

Q—However, if necessary I will go in the box later myself.

COMMISSIONER—I am not sure that this is material to this enquiry. You can cross-examine, but you yourself are not in the witness box and you are getting further away from the subject matter of the enquiry.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Might I explain that the witness in the course of his cross-examination refers to a conversation he had with me; but he refers only to parts of that conversation.

COMMISSIONER—I understand that you desire to get the rest of it and you are quite right in referring to the other parts.

MR. HOWLEY—You might have to put Mr. Higgins in the box.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Or Mr. Hunt.

MR. HOWLEY—And you might have to put Mr. Howley in the box.

COMMISSIONER—I think the only person who could deal with this is Sir William Coaker.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—At all events those suggestions and terms of consideration of your, namely, that you should be retained on the Labrador Boundary Case; take in the British Empire Exhibition and go to the Conference and be looked after financially, as terms of your resignation, were not accepted?

COMMISSIONER—Were they ever accepted?

A—No.

Q—In the course of the discussion of those terms was there anything said about how the Meaneys matter was to be cleared up?

A—I do not remember anything about that. The idea I had in mind was that a Commission of Enquiry was going to have it cleared up.

COMMISSIONER—Then there was an idea that there was to be an enquiry?

A—But, you remember when I came back and said that Mr. Higgins would not consent?

A—I do not remember the day of the week.

Q—Do you remember if Sir William Coaker was there then?

A—I do not remember.

Q—But you do remember when I came back?

A—I am not quite clear on that.

Q—Do you know if Sir William Coaker is an influential member of the House of Assembly and of the Government Party?

A—Yes.

Q—Do you know if he was such at that time?

A—Yes.

Q—And while he was an influential member did you discuss with him at any time, either in my presence or not, any of those suggestions?

A—Sir William Coaker and I had probably a couple of conversations, one of which took place in your presence, on the subject matter under review was discussed at that conference.

Q—As to the suggestions with reference to the Labrador Boundary Case, the British Empire Exhibition and the London Conference, did you discuss those with Sir Wm. Coaker?

A—I am not sure whether I discussed them with him personally or not.

Q—Whether I was present or not, did you discuss with him those suggestions that I have mentioned?

A—I think I did. As a matter of fact that suggestion came either from him or from some associate of his to me. That is where the idea first developed.

Q—Did I have anything to do with that?

A—I have no knowledge that you had.

Q—Then the suggestion came from Sir William Coaker to you?

A—I am not saying that I am saying it either came from Sir William Coaker or from somebody whom he was associated with.

Q—You remember the suggestions and you have an idea that the suggestions along that line came from Sir William Coaker or an associate of his?

A—I am not saying all the suggestions but that idea of my retirement.

COMMISSIONER—Your retirement in favor of Mr. Warren; and it came either from Sir William Coaker himself or from an associate of his?

A—Yes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Was it before you mentioned them to me?

A—The original idea of my retirement in your favor was the suggestion to me from some channel that I cannot identify at the present moment and before I made any suggestions to you.

Q—Now on your oath, did I ever make any suggestion to you to retire in my favor?

A—No.

Q—Did I ever offer you any terms?

A—No.

Q—Did I ever suggest to you that those things might come your way if you did resign in my favor?

A—No.

Q—Was the question of your resignation ever discussed between you and I, except upon the Meaneys charges?

A—No.

Sir Richard Squires (Re-examined by Mr. Howley, K.C.)

Q—I think about the time that this Meaneys sensation, if I may so express it, first became public property, the question had arisen in the House of Assembly with regard to the conduct of affairs at the Agriculture and Mines Department?

A—Yes.

Q—And the developments in the two matters pretty well ran along simultaneously?

A—Yes.

Q—I think the question was asked in the House of Assembly and was followed by the tabling of the expediture made by the Agriculture and Mines Department, running into very large figures?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—Is that Dr. Campbell's Department?

A—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—I think that those

accounts had been tabled after Dr. Campbell had left the country on his holiday trip?

A—He had not then gone when the suggestion was first made in the House.

Q—But he had gone when the accounts were tabled?

A—I am not sure of that.

Q—This party meeting that we were told of was not a party meeting to deal with the Meaneys charges, was it?

A—No.

Q—I think, as a matter of fact it was principally directed to the public discussion of expenditure in the Crown Lands office which had just been made in the House?

A—My recollection is it was the Agriculture and Mines department and no other matter was discussed.

Q—And at this time the Meaneys matter began to circulate amongst the public?

A—Yes.

Q—There were some conferences between you and Mr. Warren and Sir William Coaker, were there not?

(Continued on page 6.)

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