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

(Continued from page 10.)

A.—It did not weigh very much on my mind. I was disappointed.

Q.—And you might have regarded yourself as a failure in that line of work.

A.—I did not.

Q.—You did not regard yourself as a failure?

A.—I do not say that I am. The fact that I did not succeed was quite evident.

Q.—You felt more or less discouraged?

A.—Disappointed. I was never discouraged.

Q.—If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. That was your motto?

A.—Upwards. Always upwards.

Q.—You did try again?

A.—Yes.

Q.—When

A.—In January, 1923.

Q.—And how much did you try for at that time?

A.—Very little.

Q.—How much?

A.—I only had two or three interviews.

Q.—How much was the sum, and did you make any progress with it?

A.—How much? $300,000.

Q.—I suppose you may have thought of the attempt to get $100,000 from the company in 1922 as perhaps being treated in the minds of the people as a petty game?

A.—I do not quite understand your question.

Q.—Very well, I will vary the question.

Q.—Did you have any reason for demanding that $300,000 in 1922 or 1923, it was early in 1923?

A.—It was not my personal demand or decision.

Q.—You made the request?

A.—I made it on behalf of others.

Q.—You made the request for $300,000?

A.—I did.

Q.—You made it on the information that you had received from Mr. Miller and his sister—you had nothing from Sir Richard, on that subject, himself, up to that time?

A.—Not prior to meeting him in Montreal.

Q.—And had nothing been said by Sir Richard about the $300,000?

A.—Not to me directly.

Q.—The only information you had on the subject of that money for Sir Richard; that $300,000 was the information from Mr. Miller and his sister?

A.—That is correct; those were the usual channels.

Q.—That was before you left for Montreal?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Mr. Miller went with you?

A.—He did.

Q.—Sir Richard was not there when you arrived?

A.—No.

COMMISSIONER — Eight or ten days later, I think he said.

MR. LEWIS—You had quite a bit of time to pass away before he came?

A.—Not very much.

Q.—Eight or ten days?

A.—Perhaps it was about that time.

Q.—Before Sir Richard got in Montreal?

A.—We got in Montreal, I think, about the 18th of the month.

Q.—When did Sir Richard arrive?

A.—About January 30th. I did not remain in Montreal all the time. I think he arrived there the latter part of January.

Q.—You stayed at the Ritz Carlton and so did Sir Richard?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—On the way to Montreal you fell in with the McDougall party, I think?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that a pre-arranged meeting?

A.—On our part yes, I don't know if Mr. McDougall knew about it.

Q.—That was at Truro?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you invited Mr. McDougall into your drawing-room?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you turned Mr. Miller out?

A.—No.

Q.—He was not there?

A.—No, he was not there, then how could I turn him out?

Q.—And you discussed with Mr. McDougall alone your suggestion; well we will not say suggestion, your request to Mr. McDougall that Sir Richard wanted $300,000 instead of $100,000 as previously asked for?

A.—I dont' know that I suggested it; I told him my mission and I named the amount; as a matter of fact I did not tell him at the first about the whole; but when getting into conversation I told him first about $200,000 and then $250,000, and finally I broke the ice to him and told him $300,000.

Q.—You were using wide discretion?

A.—I was, I did not want to shock him too much.

COMMISSIONER—You wanted to soften the blow?

A.—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—You did not want to give him heart failure?

A.—Mr. McDougall is a hearty man.

Q.—Then was it a mental shock that you wanted to avoid?

A.—I don't know about that.

Q.—Then you did not have very much reason in saying $200,000 or $250,000. But didn't you testify in your examination in chief that you broke it to him bluntly?

A.—I did not; but by easy stages, I told him.

Q.—Now you say that you approached it by easy stages?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you remarked that the reply was something as to Sir Richard's sanity?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you assure him of Sir Richard's sanity?

A.—He asked if he was crazy and I said that he was crazy to get money.

Q.—Purely as a joke.

A.—Take it as you wish.

Q.—Upon what did you base that thought that he was crazy to get money?

A.—Because of Sir Richard's necessities, of which I had a knowledge.

Q.—You had been his "confidant"?

A.—Oh, no.

Q.—What did you know of his necessities?

A.—Because I had to help him.

Q.—You had helped him in the transferring of the Government funds into his bank account?

A.—I did as a loan.

Q.—That was in his absence?

A.—Some of it.

Q.—The cheques were?

A.—Some.

Q.—Weren't all of them but one?

COMMISSIONER—I think there were five cheques on his return. The first one that was produced was a cheque of December 11th which was just after his return and I think there were five cheques produced and we discovered that there had been a previous four which had been given during his absence.

MR. LEWIS—The situation which resulted in your making the temporary loan to Miss Miller is what you refer to?

A.—Yes.

Q.—That was all you knew of Sir Richard's necessities?

A.—Well I don't know; in general I knew that Sir Richard——

Q.—In general, anyone can suspect that a man is hard up; most of us are.

A.—That is all I knew.

MR. LEWIS—I am questioning you about the jocosity of your remark and you based it on the fact that het was hard up; you used "necessity" but I used the phrase hard up because it is an expression which is familiar to most everyone. All you know of his necessities or hard up condition was what knowledge you had obtained in connection with the loans that had been made?

A.—The loans and the money that he had got from the Besco through Mr. Miller, I knew of that.

Q.—From whom had you got that information?

A.—Miss Miller.

Q.—You saw her quite often?

A.—Yes, I saw her rather frequently. She came to me when she wanted to get Sir Richard out of financial troubles.

Q.—Did she tell you of Sir Richard's necessities?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you permitted it?

A.—Why should I stop her?

Q.—You knew she was Sir Richard's financial and confidential secretary?

A.—When he sent his confidential secretary to borrow money you would expect her to tell me. I did not know that I had any control over her in that matter.

Q.—Did you explain to Mr. McDougall anything about Sir Richard's necessities?

A.—I don't think I went into that particularly. He understood money was required by Sir Richard.

Q.—How did he know that?

A.—I told him.

Q.—It was understood that Sir Richard required money from Mr. McDougall or from his company?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Or desired it?

A.—He desired it.

Q.—There was no threat?

A.—How do you mean, threat?

Q.—There was no attempt to coerce?

A.—There was.

Q.—We never heard of that.

A.—Well I will tell you about it; there was a public announcement by Sir Richard that he would take over the mines at Bell Island and have them operated if they did not come to terms with the men.

COMMISSIONER—Just wait a minute; I should like to get that.

A.—Sir Richard made a public announcement in the Canadian Press that his Government would take over the mines of the Bell Island Companies and have them operated by some other company or the Government if they did not come to terms with the men.

MR. LEWIS—Were you in sympathy with that proposition?

A.—No, I was not because it was an insane one.

Q.—Did Mr. McDougall know of that threat, as you call it, at that time?

A.—You mean in 1923, of course he did.

Q.—Did you remind him of it at your interview in your drawing room?

A.—He drew my attention to it but I don't know if it was in my drawing-room; it would not have been because he did not know of it at that time; it was later some time in Montreal that Mr. McDougall discussed it with me.

Q.—After the threat?

A.—Yes, of course, it could not be before.

Q.—When Mr. McDougall said that he had doubt of Sir Richard's sanity and you had made the reply to which you testified, what happened then?

A.—We continued our conversation regarding the prospects of the paying of some money.

Q.—Mr. McDougall was considering the payment of money to a crazy man?

A.—I don't know, he may have considered him that.

Q.—You continued to discuss the payment of some money?

A.—We discussed the "obtaining" of the money, not the "payment."

Q.—That is equivalent to the payment; you would not get the money unless it was paid to you?

A.—That is correct.

Q.—You expected that if the money was paid, it would be paid to you?

A.—No, I did not, and I have never said so.

Q.—I wondered if you did or not and I am entitled to ask you.

A.—Well you wondered wrong.

Q.—What amounts were mentioned?

A.—I told you long ago that the matter was $300,000.

Q.—I mean the similar payments that McDougall was considering?

A.—I did not say that; we discussed small amounts.

Q.—I thought you did. Well, was there any such discussion?

A.—No.

Q.—There was nothing further said on the subject of payments?

A.—No sir.

Q.—The matter was dropped then?

A.—Do you mean dropped entirely; you asked me if there was a discussion of smaller amounts and I said no. Mr. McDougall discussed it with Mr. Miller and me later on.

Q.—When was that?

A.—Same day—perhaps the same hour.

Q.—Mr. Miller was not there at the time the conference started?

A.—No.

Q.—He came in later?

A.—Yes, at my request.

Q.—What was said?

A.—Pretty much the same as I told you in the other?

Q.—Is Squires crazy?

A.—That was mentioned.

Q.—How many times did he repeat the enquiry?

A.—One enquiry was sufficient on the subject.

Q.—What occupied the rest of your time?

A.—The consideration of the proposition was one which would occupy some little time as to the whys and the wherefores.

Q.—A man is not going to discuss the proposition of an insane man?

A.—I don't know what his opinion was.

Q.—Did you know what his opinion was of the proposition?

A.—I do not.

Q.—Did he think it was an insane proposition?

A.—Exactly as I told you. I don't know what his mental opinion was at the time.

Q.—How long did the interview last?

A.—I think it would go into an hour. I think Mr. Gillis came in later.

Q.—There was a further addition?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Anyone else besides Mr. Gillis?

A.—Not to my recollection.

Q.—What were the discussions after the arrival of Mr. Gillis?

A.—The same generally.

Q.—Who sent for Mr. Gillis?

A.—I don't remember.

Q.—You did not send for him?

A.—I don't remember.

Q.—Do you recall whether Mr. McDougall sent for him?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—He just drifted in?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—He floated in?

A.—No. He is not a man who floats in.

Q.—He came in casually?

A.—I don't know. I did not bring him in.

Q.—It was a casual call, we will leave it that way?

A.—Put it the way you wish.

Q.—It was taken up anew with Mr. Gillis?

A.—Not anew. It was continued.

Q.—He had not known of it before?

A.—He knew of it.

Q.—Who told him?

A.—I had.

Q.—You told him before?

A.—Of course I did.

Q.—Did you mention the sum?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Before you told Mr. McDougall?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What did Mr. Gillis say?

A.—I don't know if he expressed himself very particularly?

Q.—Apparently he did not discourage you?

A.—No.

Q.—He did not advise you to keep away from Mr. McDougall?

A.—No. Why should he?

Q.—I was asking you if he did?

A.—And I told you he did not.

Q.—You have not told us that you discussed it with Mr. Gillis before you discussed it with Mr. McDougall?

A.—Why should I, I was not asked.

Q.—I think you testified that you first talked the matter over with Mr. McDougall?

A.—I don't know, I don't remember anyone else but Jim Miller.

Q.—He was your side partner in the matter?

A.—Yes.

Q.—When Mr. Gillis came into the drawing room what was the conversation?

A.—The same as I told you with Mr. McDougall.

Q.—There was first the question as to Sir Richard's sanity when you were alone with Mr. McDougall?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Second there was a repetition of that question when you, Mr. McDougall and Mr. Miller were together?

A.—Yes.

Q.—The same question and answer?

A.—No I did not say that. The same answer and question may not have been discussed.

Q.—The same subject and result was discussed with Mr. McDougall, Mr. Meaney, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Miller?

A.—The same subject and the same absence of result.

Q.—You say the same remark about Sir Richard was made?

A.—I don't recollect that it was the same; the subject was the same.

Q.—Was there anyone else joined the part?

A.—Not to my recollection.

Q.—And this little party of four in the drawing room had the matter all to themselves?

A.—Of course, we did not go out on the train with the others.

Q.—You did not go out of the car to tell anyone?

A.—You don't announce these things off the public platforms.

MR. LEWIS—It would not be safe.

A.—No.

Q.—Didn't you testify that Mr. McDougall's secretary was in the party?

A.—I said he was in the party en route to Montreal, but he was not in the discussion.

Q.—Was he there during any time of the conference before Mr. McDougall, Mr. Gillis, Mr. Miller and yourself?

A.—He might have been; he was his private secretary.

Q.—I thought you said in your evidence "the others joined."

A.—I say they were in the party.

COMMISSIONER—That can be supported or contradicted by the shorthand notes; if you have them.

MR. LEWIS—I don't see it just now; it may have been in Mr. Miller's evidence that I saw it.

WITNESS—I mentioned Mr. Kelly Butler. I said he was with Mr. McDougall en route to Montreal. I have no recollection of his being there when we were discussing the matter; but it is not improbable that Mr. McDougall would call in his secretary although I have no recollection of his doing so.

MR. LEWIS—Mr. McDougall and Mr. Gillis knew of the proposition that Sir Richard wanted $300,000?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, isn't it true; did you have any knowledge at the time you left of any projected visit to Montreal by Sir Richard?

A.—Before I left Newfoundland?

Q.—Yes.

A.—I did not to my knowledge know he was going.

Q.—You had no reason for expecting to meet him up there when you left?

A.—My recollection is that I did not know he was going.

COMMISSIONER—You did not know that he would be going?

A.—I did not. That is my recollection. I don't remember having any intimation that he was going.

MR. LEWIS—Did you have any better intimation as to Sir Richard's intentions when he went up there the second time than when he went the first time.

A.—No, I think it was about the same; I cannot recollect anything that would make a difference.

Q.—You had no expectations of meeting Sir Richard there when you left St. John's?

A.—My recollection is that I did not know he was going.

Q.—Isn't it a fact that some time after your arrival in Montreal some labour trouble rose in Wabana?

A.—It did.

Q.—And the mines were closed down, were they not?

A.—It occurred the day we arrived at Montreal. Mr. McDougall or Mr. Gillis gave me the first news of it.

Q.—Was that on the train?

A.—I think it must have been.

Q.—The mines did close down; did they not?

A.—They did.

Q.—Negotiations were held by Sir Richard for the re-opening of the mines? Were there such negotiations?

A.—After his arrival at Montreal yes, but there were negotiations before he left St. John's.

Q.—You knew of them?

A.—No, I was at Montreal. Mr. McDougall showed me a message offering to continue the operations at the mines if the Government would give him the same conditions as the preceding year. He did not make it public but came to Montreal.

Q.—How do you know he would not make it public?

A.—It was not made public to my knowledge; I learned it after I returned. He might have told others but I don't think he took the public or anybody in his confidence in that matter.

Q.—It was a serious matter?

A.—It was.

A.—And he came up to Montreal but later had to take the terms of the message.

Q.—That was about the 800 men?

A.—I don't know. I am quite sure that Mr. McDougall offered to continue the operations of the mines, but he went up to negotiate it and he got no better terms than he got when he got the message.

Q.—Did you hear it discussed?

A.—Yes, in a general way. It was owing to some tieup in the markets in Germany or something like that.

Q.—Wasn't it the shutting down of the mines to force the abandonment of the tax for 1923?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Wasn't that discussed on the train that day; did you hear any such discussion?

A.—Of what?

Q.—Of what I was asking you?

A.—I did not to my knowledge.

Q.—Isn't it a fact that the mines were closed for the purpose of forcing the relief of taxes; of tax duties for 1923?

A.—I don't know. I think it was the other way about.

Q.—The Company was very considerate of the Government?

A.—I don't know. I have no recollection of the company having made any such statement.

MR. LEWIS—Is it not a fact, Mr. Meaney, that at the time the mines were closed down, a year before the re-opening they were employing 800 men, and when the mines re-opened it gave employment to 800 men?

A.—Yes, I negotiated that for the Premier with Mr. McDougall.

Q.—Is it not a fact that the idea you gave Mr. McDougall at the time we are now speaking of was the opening of the mines and the employment of the same number of men as had agreed upon the year before?

A.—800, yes.

Q.—And that in consideration of the employment of the 800, the taxes would be lifted?

A.—That was the basis of it.

COMMISSIONER—What is all this leading to. I don't quite see how this is going to help me in the question I have to decide.

MR. LEWIS—If your Honor please, Mr. Meaney has told us that he went to Montreal without any authority from Sir Richard himself, and that he did not know at the time that Sir Richard was to be there.

COMMISSIONER—He had no authority from Sir Richard, unless the go-between was authorised to employ him.

MR. LEWIS—He said he had no knowledge that Sir Richard was to be there.

COMMISSIONER—You were cross-examining him as to whether in the interval there had not arisen certain labour troubles which might require Sir Richard's presence there in Montreal. I understood him to say yes. The question then is not whether he was asked to do anything or was not asked to do anything. The only suggestion made is that his going there was in connection with the labour troubles. The witness has already given you that.

MR. LEWIS—Did your Honor get the statement of Mr. Meaney that the labour trouble could have been settled by a telegram from Sir Richard, without his going to Montreal.

COMMISSIONER — If Sir Richard went there and did no more than go there, that would not alter my mind now if his going there was a proper thing.

MR. LEWIS—Mr. Meaney says that instead of going to Montreal and settling the labour controversy, it might have been settled by a telegram.

COMMISSIONER—I am only concerned to know if this was the call that brought Sir Richard there, if it was the labour trouble. What more do you want?

MR. LEWIS—I should not continue to ask about this, except for his suggestion—which seems to me to be entirely unnecessary—that Sir Richard made the labour trouble his excuse for getting to Montreal.

WITNESS—I did not say that, sir.

COMMISSIONER—He has not said that in my hearing.

MR. LEWIS—Mr. Meaney said Sir Richard could have settled the labour trouble by telegram, instead of which he went to Montreal. The inforance is that he wanted himself to be at Montreal for some other purpose, and I think that is the inference that Mr. Meaney expects us to draw.

COMMISSIONER—Until you yourself suggested that inference to me, Mr. Lewis, I had not thought so at all.

MR. LEWIS—I suggested, sir, that it was the inference that Mr. Meaney wanted you to draw.

COMMISSIONER—I am very loath to have this long time wasted on matters which to my mind cannot possibly touch the matter I have to decide. We have it from the witness that he goes to Montreal, without any intimation that Sir Richard is going to follow, and in eight or ten days time Sir Richard does follow him, and that in the interval unpleasant labour troubles had arisen which might justify his presence in Montreal. It is hardly to your interest to pursue the matter further. If you consider it is desirable to pursue it further, of course, I won't check it. But you are much more likely to make me draw such an inference as was suggested, if you do.

MR. LEWIS—If so, I am very sorry to plant that thought in your Honor's mind, but I think that is what Mr. Meaney intended doing.

WITNESS—Your construction may not be altogether wrong.

MR. LEWIS—That is very candid of you, Mr. Meaney.

WITNESS—I know it is.

MR. LEWIS—Now you have told us how you were dealing with Mr. McDougall, have you not?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And his Company was the Nova Scotia Iron and Steel Company?

A.—I regarded him as the Vice-President of the Besco Company?

Q.—Was the Besco as early as 1923?

A.—My impression on the subject was that I was dealing with the Vice-President of the Besco.

Q.—And President of Nova Scotia?

A.—I had no thought of the Nova Scotia or Dominion at that time, the Besco was all that was in my mind. Rightly or wrongly, that is what I did.

Q.—Now to go back to the $100,000.00 proposition, and your first trip to Montreal. I think you testified that Mr. McDougall said that that amount was exorbitant?

A.—That was the substance of what he said.

Q.—I think you said he told you he would have to refer that matter to his directors?

A.—Yes.

A.—Do you know what directors he had in mind?

A.—The directors of the Besco. That was the impression he left on my mind.

Q.—Was there a Board of Directors of the Besco at that time?

A.—I don't know. He may have been the whole company, but I did not know it.

Q.—Did Mr. McDougall say to you in connection with your original figure of $100,000.00 that there might be a contribution of $15,000.00 or $20,000.00.

A.—In answer to my question as to what he considered would be a fair contribution, he may have mentioned those figures.

Q.—And that would be a contribution?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Was it not understood by him and by you that the contribution if paid him would be paid into political campaign funds?

A.—I don't know. I understood it was for Sir Richard Squires.

Q.—Did Mr. McDougall know that?

A.—He understood from me it was for Sir Richard.

Q.—And not for campaign funds?

A.—Candidly, no; not for campaign funds. I don't know whether the whole of it was to go to Sir Richard or not, but that was the understanding.

Q.—And none of it to you?

A.—Not excepting as I have already told you.

Q.—Well now you reported that, I suppose. I gather from your testimony that you reported to Sir Rich-

(Continued on page 12.)