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

(Continued from page 9.)

same, but I don't remember anything else.

Q.—You don't know anything about it?

A.—No.

MR. WARREN—There were some questions that I put to Sir Richard yesterday, which he asked to be put to Mr. Frazer. There was a cheque given to Mrs. Harsant for $3,135.00 in June 1921; yesterday I asked to whom it had been charged and Sir Richard said you would be able to tell us. Can you?

A.—It was charged to R. A. Squires' account; his personal account in the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Q.—Do you remember what the cheque was given for?

A.—Reimbursement for fire loss claims.

Q.—Charged to Sir Richard personally?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Why not to fire loss claims?

A.—Miss Miller made out the cheque herself and sent it to him for signature.

Q.—But why was it not charged to fire loss claims?

A.—The entry in my book debits it to fire loss claims.

Q.—To whom was it charged?

A.—To Sir Richard Squires' personal account.

Q.—The two accounts were still standing?

A.—It is charged to the Globe and Rutgers account and paid from the Bank.

COMMISSIONER — In the Ledger who is it charged to?

A.—To Globe and Rutgers.

Q.—Who is it charged to in the cash book?

A.—Paid by Bank.

Q.—And eventually charged to Globe and Rutgers fire loss account?

A.—Yes sir.

Q.—When did you enter these over to the Ledger?

A.—The day I made the payments; everything went daily.

MR. WARREN—Can you find the entry?

A.—Yes. July 25, 1921.

Q.—What date does that represent?

A.—I meant June 25th 1921.

Q.—The cheque was drawn the 24th?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that entered up to the fire loss account at that particular time?

A.—Yes. June 25, 1921.

Q.—It was charged, yes, but some of these accounts were entered up recently. I ask you about this particular one; when was the entry made in the Ledger?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—I also asked Sir Richard when the loss of Mr. Godden came up and he told us it could be looked up; can you tell us when it was?

A.—The fire occurred 14th Nov., 1920.

Q.—But the claim for adjustment was not sent on until when?

A.—Some time in 1921.

Q.—Seven months afterwards?

A.—Yes.

Q.—When did you get the cheque from Globe and Rutgers, or did you ever get the cheque from Globe and Rutgers?

A.—The cheque from Globe and Rutgers went through my books July 25, 1921.

Q.—In the meantime Sir Richard had given this cheque to Miss Miller?

A.—Yes sir.

Q.—What was the amount? For Godden $1,135.00 and for Tucker $3,-135.00.

A.—Yes.

Q.—So that it was more than the cheque Sir Richard had given. Just look up the Globe and Rutger's account?

A.—$3,350.00.

Q.—So that it was more than the cheque Sir Richard had given Miss Miller? But in June Sir Richard had given a cheque for $1,135.00 which she had advanced to Mr. Godden and Mr. Tucker on account of fire loss claims?

A.—Yes.

MR. HOWLEY—Mr. Fraser, you have told us that you found things in arrears and you gradually cleaned up fire claims due by the office to insurance companies and others; have they all been cleared up?

A.—I have done all I can to clear them up.

Q.—As far as you have gone you have cleared them up?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIINER — That completes the evidence as far as you are concerned?

A.—Yes, sir.

Are there any other witnesses which you wish to have recalled to question upon matters which have not been put to them? I said that Mr. Meaney and Mrs. Harsant might have to be recalled in order to put matters to them; would you like to call them.

MR. WARREN—Before we commence that I propose to submit that Mr. Curtis was to have gone back to the box.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. Howley, you have no objection to Mr. Curtis going into the box again?

A.—No, sir.

Let Mr. Curtis come back to the box.

MR. C. E. HUNT—(Mr. Curtis previously sworn).—You have given evidence as to what Miss Miller did at the office, after she left in July, 1921, and if my memory is correct you said she had nothing to do with the office in any way?

A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—In any financial way?

A.—Not to my knowledge, nothing as far as I know.

Q.—Then she had nothing to do with the finding of any money for the firm as far as you know and if she did you would know?

A.—I should know.

Q.—You would know?

A.—Well, I don't know now of any.

Q.—If she had anything to do with the firm, of which you were a partner, the only partner in town, you would know?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you look at that. What is it?

A.—It is a deposit slip dated August 25th, 1921.

Q.—That is after she had left?

A.—Nearly two months.

Q.—Read it?

A.—"Place to the credit of Leslie R. Curtis the sum of $5,000.00."

Q.—To your personal credit in what bank?

A.—The Bank of Nova Scotia.

Q.—Per whom?

A.—Per Jean G. Miller.

Q—Have you anything to do with that?

A.—I have no personal account in the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Q.—This is recording the fact that $5,000.00 had been deposited to your account by Miss Miller. It is marked duplicate and stamped by the bank and initialed?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then that is $5,000.00 placed to your credit of which you know nothing?

A.—I can trace it now I think. In the first place when Mr. Fraser opened the Squires and Curtis account in the Bank; Sir Richard Squires was out of town, or he was not available, and the account of Squires and Curtis had to have the signature of the two partners; so for the first two years the Squires and Curtis account was in the name of L. R. Curtis, Trust, but all the accounts were signed by Squires and Curtis Trust.

COMMISSIONER—But this is something entirely new. Was this opened in your name only?

A.—The Bank would not open an account——

Q.—Was it opened in your name personally; just tell me that. I ask you a particular question; was what you name as the Trust Account originally opened in your name only?

A.—Yes.

Q.—All this discussion has taken place upon another basis, but no one has heard of that fact until now.

A.—It was opened in my name but it was a Squires and Curtis account. The banks would not open a Squires and Curtis account unless we had signed documents by both parties and we could not get the one signed by Sir Richard because he was out of town.

COMMISSIONER—The answer to the question is that it was opened in your name only as trust?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—I do comment upon the fact that this is the first time I have heard of this.

MR. HUNT—Is that a personal or Trust account?

A.—It is a Squires and Curtis account in the name of Leslie R. Curtis.

Q.—You had another account in the Bank of Montreal?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Although Mr. Fraser was in the firm he did not know of it?

COMMISSIONER—I think there is a little misunderstanding; he said he knew of a trust account, but he did not know that amount had been deposited.

A.—It was a trust account and he knew it was always in funds.

MR. HUNT—That was $5,000.00 put to the credit of L. R. Curtis; did you know that all the time?

A.—I knew there was a deposit.

Q.—By Miss Miller?

A.—No.

Q.—You mean it was in the bank and you knew nothing about it?

A.—No.

Q.—You knew there was a deposit but not where it came from?

A.—No.

Q.—Or its amount?

A.—No.

Q.—You did not know the amount or where it came from? You did not know that Miss Miller put $5,000.00 to your credit? You are swearing that on oath, that you did not know?

A.—No. Mr. Frazer at that time was proceeding with the insurance accounts and about that date he would be ready to send a settlement to head office. I arranged with Sir Richard before he went away, I think, to put the office in funds and on or about the time that this cheque was issued the office account was in funds.

COMMISSIONER—But this $5,000 this is the first I have heard of it; that $5,000 was paid into the office by Miss Miller in order to meet the demands of the insurance companies, in order to put the office in funds; it was for premiums due?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Well, then, is it a fact that when Globe and Rutgers were pressing you for the amount, Miss Miller did get the $5,000 and put it in?

A.—That is all I know of it.

Q.—This was deposited by Miss Jean Miller?

A.—I did not know she put the money in, it was in my name.

Q.—Did you draw any cheques against it?

A.—The insurance cheque for $79.-00; it would be partly covered by that.

Q.—I thought you cabled that?

A.—I gave a cheque for it to be cabled. I did not follow the office accounts at all.

Q.—You were asking Sir Richard to get you in funds?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—You asked Sir Richard to get funds, and Miss Miller produce them?

WITNESS—Apparently that was so.

MR. HUNT—But is not that obvious?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you remember when Sir Richard was on his way to Canada about this very time that you sent him a wire about the Globe & Rutgers account?

A.—Possibly.

Q.—Do you not mean "probably" now? In August 1921 when Sir Richard was on his way to Canada, did you not send him a message that Globe & Rutgers were threatening him and pressing for payment?

A.—If I remember rightly. I may have wired him and asked him to see Globe and Rutgers while in Montreal.

Q.—Did you not wire him that they were drawing on you for this amount? That is something you ought to remember, and I think you can.

A.—I could not tell you without looking up my records. I cannot remember everything that occurred in 1921.

Q.—Your head office was pressing for accounts due them which should have been paid 14 months before. You were interested in that and you told Sir Richard to put you in funds?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And you sent him a wire?

A.—Possibly I did; I don't know.

Q.—And you still swear you don't know where that $5,000.00 came from?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you ask anybody?

A.—There was nobody to ask.

Q.—There was Miss Miller.

A.—No. I did not know Miss Miller at all in the office at that time. I had paid her her last cheque a month previously. I have not seen her I suppose for two minutes since she left the office—that is, to speak to her.

COMMISSIONER—You found that the account was put in funds, and you did not inquire as to who put it in funds?

A.—No.

Q.—You did not ask to see the deposit slip, and it is only now that you hear it was Miss Miller?

A.—This is the very first time I have heard of her connection with the transaction.

MR. HUNT—This is the first time you heard of it, although you knew the $5,000.00 was there?

WITNESS—I knew a deposit had been made, but I did not know the exact amount, whether it was $3,000.-00 or $4,000.00 or $5,000.00.

COMMISSIONER—But you knew it was put in funds?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—And an extra thousand or two would not matter I suppose?

WITNESS—We had some funds, but not enough to pay that.

MR. HUNT—Did you tell Fraser about this?

A.—Fraser would probably tell me that the deposit was made in my name.

Q.—But Fraser said he knew nothing about it. Did it go through the office books?

A.—No.

Q.—Did it go through the Cash Book?

A.—No. I don't know. I have never seen the Cash Book.

Q.—Just take a look through the Cash Book and see if it is there.

(Mr. Curtis examines book.)

A.—There is nothing in the Cash Book about it at all.

Q.—Now, Mr. Curtis, as I understand it (correct me if I am wrong) the office was short of funds, and you asked Sir Richard to get the office in funds.

A.—The office was short of funds to meet this old obligation——

COMMISSIONER—Which was none the worse for being a little old I presume.

A.—It had nothing to do with the new firm.

MR. HUNT—The office, as an office, was short of funds, and you brought the matter to the attention of Sir Richard Squires, and the next thing you know, and know to-day for the first time, is that Miss Miller put $5,000.00 to your credit. And you knew nothing about it at the time.

A.—I know there was a deposit to the credit of the account.

Q.—I wonder if there are any other deposits that might come out if we looked for them.

A.—There were several thousands in there.

Q.—But you knew nothing about this at the time?

A.—No.

Q.—You did not know how the deposit was made.

A.—No. If I asked Sir Richard for a couple of thousand he might make a deposit or arrange to have it transferred from his own account.

COMMISSIONER—This may not be an isolated case? There may have been others that you know nothing about?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—You know nothing about your own bank account.

Re-examined by Mr. Warren.

Q.—The question I now wish to ask, Mr. Curtis, arose from your last answer to Mr. Hunt. You said you did not know there was a deposit. When did you know that?

A.—If I remember rightly——I am not quite sure——perhaps I had better not say anything, but if I remember rightly, Sir Richard, I think, was out of town at that time. Before he went he said he would arrange to have the office account put in credit—at least, that is my memory. We probably enquired daily at the Bank, and ultimately found that it was in credit.

Q.—Now I want you to be clear and exact as to the question before you answer it. You say now that you know a deposit had been made?

A.—I knew that Mr. Fraser would not sign a cheque if he did not know that.

MR. WARREN—You knew the deposit had been made then, but you did not know the amount?

A.—We knew the amount at the time, but I could not remember it now. I know there had been a deposit made to this account on that date.

Q.—You knew there had been a deposit made to the firm's account. Did you know the amount deposited?

A.—At the time we would probably know.

Q.—I did not ask what you would probably know, I asked you did you know?

A.—At that time, we would know. I did not know whether it was a deposit or a transfer or what it was. All we knew was that the account that day was credited with $5,000.00. We would know that because it would appear in our pass book.

Q.—And you would not know until you saw the figures in your pass book?

A.—The entry in the pass book would be the first knowledge I would get.

Q.—Did you get the knowledge that way?

A.—Yes. Either that or by inquring from the clerk in charge of our ledger.

Q.—You say then you know you had been credited with $5,000.00, and you did not make any inquiry from Mr. Fraser about it.

A.—He knew nothing more about it than I did.

Q.—How were you as a partner in this firm—if amounts like that were deposited to your credit and not kept in the cash book—how did you keep track of everything?

A.—The partnership accounts were kept in the books by Mr. Fraser. This insurance matter was a purely R. A. Squires matter. I was not interested in it, as I am not a partner in the Fire Insurance business.

COMMISSIONER—Then this matter ought never to have gone in that partnership account at all.

A.—The money should have gone direct to Globe and Rutgers.

COMMISSIONER — The trust account was distinctly a firm account?

A.—Yes.

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER — The insurance was not a firm matter?

A.—No. But the insurance accounts went through the firm's bank account but the slips would be marked by Mr. Frazer, every day. Now they do not.

MR. WARREN—Well, now then, Mr. Curtis, you knew of this deposit soon afterwards—how soon?

A.—If we drew the cheque, the next day probably.

Q.—Did you know of it soon after the 25th of August 1921?

A.—We probably knew the day after. I was expecting the amount to be put in credit.

Q.—Who gave you to understand that the amount would be put in credit?

A.—I understood from Sir Richard before he went away.

Q.—That he would arrange to have your account put in credit?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you hear Sir Richard say that he took no interest in his bank account from beginning to and after his political activities started?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In spite of that, you say he actually told you that your account would be put in credit?

A.—I don't think he knew about my account.

Q.—Then what account was he going to put in credit, the R. A. Squires account. I don't think Sir Richard knew of the L. R. Curtis Trust when he arranged to advance the money. We knew at the time.

Q.—But you had a talk with him, and you understood that some account in which you were interested would be put in credit?

A.—Yes. The firm account, I understood.

Q.—Now you say he probably put his own account in credit instead?

A.—I am speaking from memory. I know that ultimately it got into that account.

COMMISSIONER—It was put in on the 25th of August and was taken out—and you drew it out on the 26th?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you must have known in a matter of hours?

A.—The next day perhaps.

MR. WARREN—You knew that the deposit was there and you knew the amount. Did you know the particular purpose for which it had been made?

A.—Yes.

Q.—And yet you never made any enquiry from Mr. Frazer about it?

A.—We knew the account was put in credit, and we credited it to Sir Richard Squires.

Q.—Was that the only occasion on which you had any conversation with Sir Richard Squires about the state of your bank account?

A.—It is probable that I had another talk with him as regards the account when he had the insurance returns ready in 1921. Just as soon as the insurance accounts were ready I could get a cheque from him to cover the amount.

Q.—Just as soon as you made up the returns you would ring up Sir Richard Squires, and he would arrange that the money would be there?

A.—He would send over his personal cheque most of the time.

Q.—Sir Richard Squires, then, as far as you were concerned, was financing the account?

A.—He was financing the old accounts of the office.

Q.—Did you hear him swear that he did not take any interest in the business at all?

A.—He would probably give his cheque if I said we needed it.

A.—I see. He never looked into the accounts, but he provided the money?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—Have you any questions to ask, Mr. Howley?

MR. HOWLEY—I find myself in a rather awkward position. I certainly think I ought to have to go into a re-examination but I am not in a position to deal with the matter at all.

COMMISSIONER—I really don't know, Mr. Howley, if there is anything you could ask.

Mr. J. T. Meaney—Recalled.

Mr. Meaney takes the witness box.

COMMISSIONER—I don't think it is necessary to swear him again.

MR. HUNT—You remember, sir, I undertook to ask him certain questions re two messages which passed between Miller and himself at Halifax.

COMMISSIONER—With regard to the alleged indebtedness of Mr. Meaney himself personally with Sir Richard Squires. Perhaps he had better be allowed to make a statement about that, if it has any bearing on the case, which I presume it has.

(To Witness)—You undertook to produce two telegrams—one from Miller to you and your reply with reference to it—re your dealings with Sir Richard. Kindly read the message from Miller to you, as far as it has any bearing on this case.

WITNESS—Telegram No. 1 is dated Montreal, November, 4th, 1923: "J. T. Meaney, St. John's, Newfoundland: Please arrange transfer one hundred and seventy care Mount Royal, settle with you January expense account which will be mailed direct from Halifax; leaving Tuesday Sydney and home, would you consider meeting Rastus due here latter part this week. Miller." Telegram No. 2 is dated November 5th, 1923, and reads, "J. J. Miller, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal: Wiring money Western Union Evelyn still held up, try arrange for her coming through Sydney, sales very slow, money tight, am not desirous met Rastus, hope you successful. Meaney."

MR. HUNT—Would you please tell us who is "Rastus?"

WITNESS—That refers to Sir Richard Squires.

(Interruption).

COMMISSIONER — Please don't laugh. I have no doubt you have heard the name before.

MR. HUNT—In reply to Miller you said you were not desirous of meeting him?

A.—Yes.

MR. HUNT—I would ask that these telegrams be put in evidence.

COMMISSIONER—There are some entries in that book to which my attention has been called. Will you please look them up, somebody, and let me know about them.

MR. WARREN—The sheet was a separate one, and it was taken out.

COMMISSIONER—It is a sheet headed "J. T. Meaney," whether it is in or out. Mr. Hunt, you wish to have the telegram put in evidence. That would be "J.T.M. 35 and 36." The deposit slip put in evidence had better be marked with Mr. Curtis' initials, as it refers more to him than anybody. This will be "L.R.C. Exhibit 9." Well, have you found that sheet?

MR. WARREN—Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER—Some point was made or suggested, that it discloses some borrowings or at any rate acknowledgments of debt from you towards Sir Richard Squires.

WITNESS—My answer should take the nature of an explanation which would outline my position. The first item there is $35.00. That is explained by this: I was under contract with the Daily Star as an editorial writer from September, 1919, until my appointment to the Controleir's Department, for which I was to receive a weekly wage of $35.00 under that contract. These amounts were paid personally by Sir Richard Squires—not by the Daily Star.

COMMISSIONER—Payments in advance?

A.—No. Payments for work done. Sometimes a couple of weeks would elapse between payments. There is an item here of $30.00 which should be $35.00; then there is an entry of $70.00—which was for two weeks—four entries of $70.00, and six of $35.00. Then there is an amount of $100.00. That would be for wages, too, sir.

COMMISSIONER—And those were all payments for work you had done?

A.—Yes, payments for services rendered.

Q.—Payments of your salary?

A.—On the basis of $35.00 per week.

Q.—For work on the Daily Star?

A.—Yes. Then there is a three months' note on July 14th. My recollection of that is that it was a personal accommodation note given to me by Sir Richard Squires; he could not give me the cash, and so he gave me a note.

Q.—A note for how much?

A.—$100.00.

Q.—What do you say that was for?

A.—It was for wages which he should have paid me. I was accommodating Sir Richard. Then there was a note for $400.00.

Q.—What date was that?

A.—September is the first entry here. They are in order of date. The first items were with reference to $400.00 and $100.00.

Q.—Apparently the suggestion that was paid you—a promissory note dated the 31st of December, 1919, is correct.

A.—That is quite correct to my recollection. I happened to be a candidate for Sir Richard Squires in 1919, when I had the good fortune to be defeated. It was agreed that the party funds were to pay the election expenses of Capt. Walter Kennedy and myself. The expenses after the election was over were found to be $800.00, and we went to Sir Richard Squires and asked him for payment of the money, and he told us the party funds were exhausted, and he had no money. He demurred at $800.-00 and beat us down to $400.00. He then gave us a cheque, which both of us signed and discounted at the bank and paid our bills. When the note expired it was sent to us for our signature and renewal. Later it was again sent to us, and as Capt. Walter Kennedy was in the Labrador at the time on Government business, it was presented to me personally and I signed it. When it was again sent to me, I refused to sign it, on the grounds that I would not take any further responsibility for it, as it was time for Sir Richard Squires to pay it. I considered we had done more than enough to carry that note over the election.

Q.—The date on that shows that the final renewal was on the 15th of November, 1920.

A.—That is right.

Q.—From that date on was anything done?

A.—I refused to take the responsibility for it.

Q.—You never paid it?

A.—No.

Q.—And you never sued for payment, or asked for it?

A.—Never. Sir Richard knew what that note was for when he was giving his evidence, and yet he said it was to feed and clothe me. The matter was allowed to stand over since November of 1920. I was not responsible for it and never intended to pay it.

COMMISSIONER — Yes. Well, is there any other matter you want to clear up with Mr. Meaney, Mr. Attorney General?

MR. WARREN—You have heard Sir Richard say, Mr. Meaney, that you were paid $4,000.00 in December 1920? Do you recollect hearing that?

WITNESS—I heard evidence to that point. That was the winter, before Christmas, 1921, or early in 1922 was my evidence.

Q.—When you were questioned "when was that payment made?" under examination by Mr. Howley, you replied: "To my knowledge somewhere in the winter of 1922. I am not quite sure." What did you mean by the winter of 1922? In mid-winter there is a change in years.

A.—I was speaking of the winter of 1921—the month of December, 1921, or early part of 1922—February, perhaps.

Q.—The Commissioner asked you afterwards if it were in December, 1921, and you said "Possibly. I do not know." You were not quite clear as to your recollection. Is there anything that recalls to your memory that helps you to recollect the date on which that payment was made?

A.—There is this much: I stated in my evidence, I think, that I had been pressing Miss Miller for money for an adjustment, and my recollection is that it was not paid—that the amount of money was not paid—prior to my departure for Montreal to meet Sir Richard Squires there in December 1921. I am pretty clear on that that it was not paid up to December, 1920.

Q.—Your recollection then is that the $4,000.00 was not paid in December 1920, and had not been paid up to your departure in 1921?

A.—I am absolutely sure it was not paid in 1920, because I did not pay

(Continued on page 11.)

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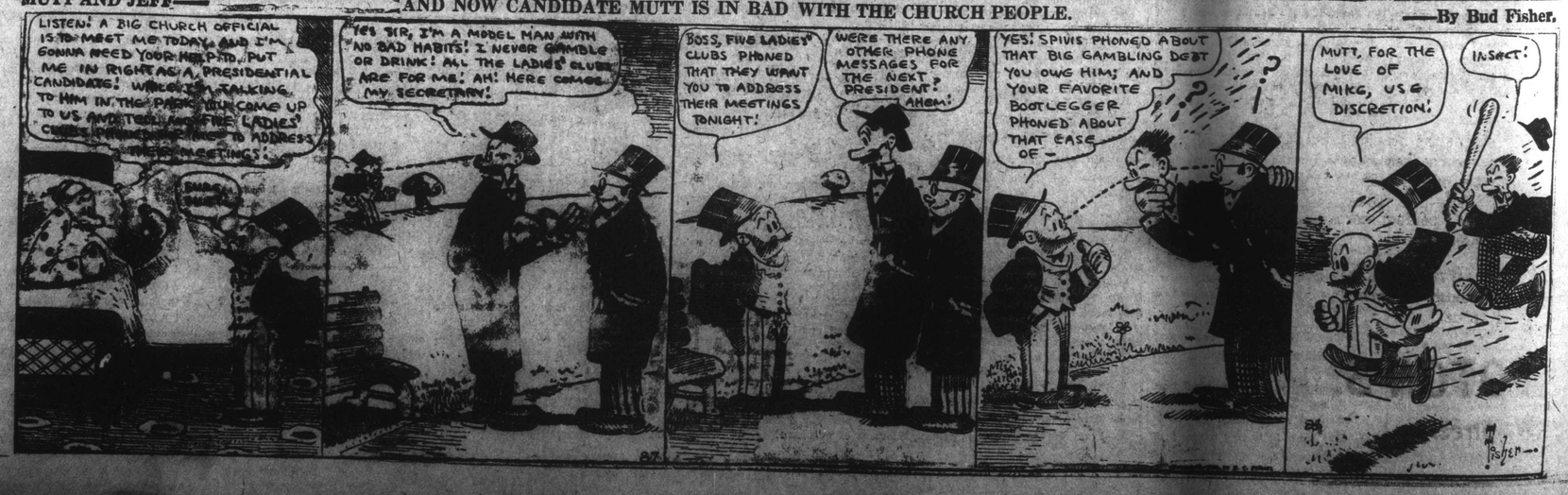
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