

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

(Continued from page 4.)

done it. Sir Richard was a person of some importance in St. John's as he had become Prime Minister of the late Prime Minister in 1919. Don't you think you would remember if you had asked personally or in writing for a better or different position for him?

A—I don't remember.

MR. LEWIS—I can refresh the witness' recollection if necessary.

COMMISSIONER—Meanwhile I am quite astonished at his forgetfulness.

MR. LEWIS—I shall show a letter to the witness and ask him to read it through.

Letter handed to witness to read.

COMMISSIONER—Is that a letter he wrote?

MR. LEWIS—That is your signature.

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—This is a letter dated by you and dated July 7, 1923. Letter is read out.

MR. LEWIS—I offer it in evidence.

COMMISSIONER—I shall take that out of it in marked.

Q—That suggests that you, Mr. Miller, were seeking the good offices of the then Prime Minister, to get you an agency at St. John's?

A—To help me out in getting the agency.

Q—So that you were asking him to assist you out in receiving the St. John's agency?

A—He was the means of my losing the agency.

MR. LEWIS—You regarded Sir Richard Squires as your friend in 1923?

A—Yes.

Q—Did you ask him for any other assistance at all during that period?

A—I do not remember.

Q—Have you no recollection at all asking him for any assistance in connection with which you were concerned during 1923?

A—I cannot remember.

Q—Do you remember writing Sir Richard any letters in connection with assistance in any matter in which you were concerned during 1923?

A—No, I don't remember.

Q—What was your business in 1923, Mr. Miller?

A—Coal and Trading Company.

Q—The Newfoundland Coal and Trading Company?

A—Yes.

Q—Where was it?

A—Water Street.

Q—In that business you were engaged in the sale of coal?

A—Yes.

Q—Did you solicit assistance from Sir Richard Squires in any matter connected with the sale of coal?

A—Government contract.

Q—I asked the question and I did not get an answer, and you know I asked it?

A—I might have done so for the Coal and Trading Company.

Q—Have you any recollection of doing so on behalf of the Trading Company?

A—We had a lot of correspondence with the Government.

Q—From the Trading Company to the Government but did you have any letters to Sir Richard on the subject?

A—I might have done so.

Q—Did you mark them "personal confidential"?

A—I am not sure.

Q—I will show you a letter and I will ask you whether the signature is your signature?

A—Yes, sir it is.

COMMISSIONER—Is that your letter? This is a letter dated 15th of May 1923. Personal and confidential and addressed to Sir Richard.

Letter read.

Q—Did you write that letter Mr. Miller?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—Did you write that letter?

A—Yes, sir, for the Coal & Trading Company.

Q—Did you receive a reply to that letter?

A—Yes, I think so.

Q—I shall show you a document passes document to witness. Did you receive that letter as a reply?

COMMISSIONER—Is that a copy of the reply you got?

WITNESS—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—I shall ask that it be put in evidence.

COMMISSIONER—That is dated the 16th. (Letter produced to Commissioner). It looks like the 16th, but it must be the 16th. (reads letter) It is addressed J. J. Miller.

MR. LEWIS—Did you solicit any other assistance from Sir Richard during 1923?

WITNESS—Do you mean for the Newfoundland Coal & Trading Co.?

Q—For yourself or your corporation?

A—It is likely I did so for the company.

Q—Would a letter from them bear your signature?

A—Yes, it might have.

Q—I show the witness this communication dated June 21st, 1923?

COMMISSIONER—(To witness) Is that yours?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—Signed by you?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—I shall ask that it be put in evidence also.

(Letter produced to Commissioner).

Q—And it was sent to Sir Richard Squires?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER (Reads Letter)—This is from the Newfoundland Coal & Trading Company, Ltd., per J. J. Miller, Director. (To witness)—You were a Director of that Corporation?

A—Yes.

Q—Were you Managing Director?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—Did you receive a reply to that letter, Mr. Miller?

A—I do not remember, because I was away quite a lot at the time. If the letter came in might have been opened by somebody in the office.

Q—I show you a copy of a letter, or what purports to be the copy of a letter addressed to you, and I ask you did you receive a letter of which that is a copy?

A—(examines letter) Yes, I might have seen it. I don't remember.

MR. LEWIS—I would ask that this copy also be put in evidence.

(Letter produced to Commissioner).

COMMISSIONER—This is a copy, dated June 20th, from Sir Richard Squires. (Reads letter). Evidently, you were trying to push your business, Mr. Miller? Not an uncommon thing, either.

MR. LEWIS—Your relations with Sir Richard at the time you wrote him

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the letter soliciting assistance with regard to getting the coal contract of the Reid Newfoundland Coal Company, were cordial, I take it, Mr. Miller?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—And that was as late as June 15, 1923?

A—Yes.

Q—And continued cordial thereafter?

COMMISSIONER—Did your relations continue cordial at a later date than that?

A—Yes, sir. Up to the time of Mr. Meaney's break.

MR. LEWIS—What time was Mr. Meaney's break, if you know?

A—When he was suspended from the Controller's Department.

Q—About when was that?

COMMISSIONER—We had that letter in the other part of the case. If you like to get it, and if it would help you, we can look it up.

MR. LEWIS—It was subsequent to June?

COMMISSIONER—It was June.

The documents are in the custody of the Court, and if you like to see it we can have it looked up for you.

MR. LEWIS—I won't ask to see it now. It was subsequent to this letter, I take it. (To witness): What was the effect of the Meaney transaction upon your relations with Sir Richard?

A—Mr. Meaney had accompanied me on every trip away.

COMMISSIONER—On the trip to Montreal of which we know?

A—Yes. He knew of the facts about this amount that had been paid at Wabana.

COMMISSIONER—Why did it make a difference to your relations with Sir Richard? Had you any personal quarrel, or were you simply championing your friend, Mr. Meaney?

A—Yes, I stood by Mr. Meaney.

MR. LEWIS—What do you mean by that expression "stood by him"?

A—Because I did not think he got a square deal.

Q—In what respect did he fail to get a square deal, in your opinion?

A—I don't know. I would sooner not answer that question.

MR. LEWIS—It seems to me that I am entitled to some explanation as to the severance of cordial relations as a result of the Meaney deal, which you say was not square.

COMMISSIONER—If you thought

that Sir Richard was not behaving properly to Mr. Meaney, then you must certainly answer the question put to you as to what respect you considered he was lacking proper treatment?

WITNESS—I refer in a general way to the transactions between himself and my sister.

MR. LEWIS—But that is not Meaney's suspension, is it? I understood you to say it was the suspension of Mr. Meaney.

A—I thought the letter he sent Sir Richard in March about my appointment being cancelled had something to do with it.

Q—The letter "he" sent Sir Richard: Who sent a letter to Sir Richard?

A—Mr. Meaney.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. Meaney sent a letter to Sir Richard in March?

A—Yes. About the treatment I received from the Company.

Q—Had that anything to do with the change in your relations with Sir Richard? In the latter part of June your relations with him were quite cordial. Subsequently to that there came Mr. Meaney's suspension. How did your knowledge of things referring to Mr. Meaney affect your relations with Sir Richard?

A—I thought the letter sent in March had something to do with his suspension.

MR. LEWIS—A letter sent by Mr. Meaney to Sir Richard?

COMMISSIONER—A letter Mr. Meaney sent Sir Richard in March.

MR. HUNT—Concerning Miller.

MR. LEWIS—Concerning yourself?

A—Yes.

COMMISSIONER—You thought that a letter Mr. Meaney wrote Sir Richard concerning yourself had something to do with his suspension in June?

A—Yes, sir.

MR. LEWIS—Well, your relations with Sir Richard were cordial up to the date of that letter you wrote him in connection with the coal contract of the Reid Company?

A—Yes.

Q—And you felt that he was your friend and that you could call upon him for assistance in the matter?

A—Yes.

Q—And you felt the same way about the other contract, on the subject of which you also wrote him a letter, did you not?

A—Yes.

Q—And when precisely, after this suspension of Sir Richard, did your cordial feelings towards him change?

COMMISSIONER—After the suspension of Mr. Meaney.

MR. LEWIS—Yes, the suspension of Mr. Meaney. When after that did your cordial feelings towards Sir Richard change?

A—When the show-down came.

Q—Do you mean by that the suspension?

A—I mean the time that Mr. Meaney had his interview with Mr. Warren.

COMMISSIONER—But Mr. Meaney did not have an interview with Mr. Warren. It was Mr. Higgins who had the interview with Mr. Warren—his solicitor.

A—That is what I mean, sir, he or his solicitor.

COMMISSIONER—The time that his solicitor had an interview with Mr. Warren?

A—Yes.

MR. LEWIS—And was that in the month of August, Mr. Miller?

A—I am not sure. I think so.

Q—And were you on pleasant cordial relations with Sir Richard until the month of August?—I assume this was in the month of August.

A—I did not see Sir Richard.

Q—Not during that period?

A—No, sir.

Q—You were a close personal friend of Mr. Meaney, I take it?

A—In business transactions.

Q—In business transactions only?

A—Yes.

Q—In what business?

A—In connection with this government business—Sir Richard's business principally.

Q—I understand you to say you had business relations with Mr. Meaney in connection with his business.

A—No.

Q—Is Mr. Meaney associated with you in the Newfoundland Coal & Trading business, or whatever the name of that corporation is?

A—No.

Q—Not?

COMMISSIONER—Do speak up please.

A—He has no shares and no interest in the Newfoundland Coal & Trading Company.

MR. LEWIS—Has he ever had?

A—No.

Q—Has he been associated with you in any way in connection with the business?

A—Nothing more than that since his suspension he has used my office. But only once or twice at most.

Q—Prior to his suspension he did not use your office even?

A—Not that I remember.

Q—And you became bitter towards Sir Richard in August?

A—Bitter? No.

Q—Then what was the result of that cessation of cordial relations? Did you have a bitterness towards him on account of his treatment of Mr. Meaney?

A—No.

Q—Did you think he treated Meaney fairly?

A—Not quite fairly.

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Q—Did you resent his treatment of Meaney?

A—Not any more than that I was going to stand by Mr. Meaney.

Q—There was a real feud between Sir Richard and Mr. Meaney from that time on, was there not?

A—No. Mr. Meaney always seemed friendly disposed towards him.

Q—Even after his suspension?

A—Yes.

Q—But you were bitter?

A—No.

Q—You were not cordial?

A—I was not unfriendly.

Q—Did you have any communication with Sir Richard after the show-down in August, in writing?

A—Do you mean last year?

Q—Yes, 1923.

A—Do you mean personal?

Q—I mean did you write him any letters?

A—There might have been letters since from the Newfoundland Coal and Trading Company, which I signed.

Q—They would not be your letters?

A—No.

Q—That they would be in connection with the Newfoundland Coal and Trading Company?

A—They would be letters in connection with the business of the Newfoundland Coal and Trading Company.

Q—Was there no personal correspondence?

A—I don't remember any.

COMMISSIONER—How often that has turned up here; "I don't remember."

COMMISSIONER—The question was: "Did you write him any personal letters?" Did you write him letters on your own account? We don't expect you to remember all the business letters of your company. What we wanted to know was: Did you write any personal letters of your own to Sir Richard as recently as July or August? (To Mr. Lewis) That is the question I understand?

MR. LEWIS—That is precisely the question.

COMMISSIONER—(To witness) Well? . . . You can't go any further? Then I suppose I must put it down that you don't remember?

A—I don't remember.

MR. LEWIS—Did you have any conversation with Sir Richard after the

ber!" Mr. Miller do try and take your memory back a little. This was only about six months ago.

WITNESS—I could not remember all the Newfoundland Coal and Trading Company's correspondence.

COMMISSIONER—The question was: "Did you write him any personal letters?" Did you write him letters on your own account? We don't expect you to remember all the business letters of your company. What we wanted to know was: Did you write any personal letters of your own to Sir Richard as recently as July or August? (To Mr. Lewis) That is the question I understand?

MR. LEWIS—That is precisely the question.

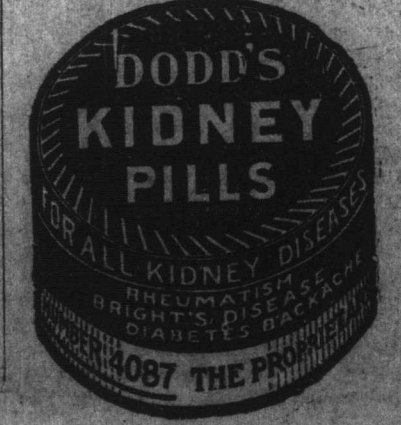
COMMISSIONER—(To witness) Well? . . . You can't go any further? Then I suppose I must put it down that you don't remember?

A—I don't remember.

MR. LEWIS—Did you have any conversation with Sir Richard after the

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