

mere matter of detail in connection with the running of your system. I do not think that excuse will be accepted?—A. Well, no excuse was offered; please make no mistake in that.

Q. I do not know, then, what the reasons are— —A. You are asking me on what date, prior to the letter of May 31st, I first discussed the matter with the Minister. I cannot tell you that. I do not recall it definitely.

Q. We will put it in another way, if you thought that was all I wanted. I wanted to know definitely from you whether you discussed the purchase of the Hotel Scribe with the Minister of Railways before you wrote that letter of May 31st?—A. I think I probably did.

Q. You thing you probably did. We have two salient clauses; the first is the thought and the next is the probability?—A. That is right.

Q. Can you not do better than that?—A. No, I cannot.

Q. Then I am afraid we will have to go back to the records again?—A. Well, as you like.

Q. You say: "Two months ago I brought the matter to the attention of our Board of Directors, outlining in a general way what I thought should be done, and the Board expressed itself as being in accord with my views." Just at that point, in fairness to you, I should draw attention to your statement of yesterday that the Board knew nothing about this matter until it came up in the House? —A. Well, I do not remember the day it came up in the House. Probably it is a matter of record.

Q. In June of last year; I did not give you the exact date yesterday because I did not have the Hansard; I have it to-day. I think it is only fair to draw your attention to the answer you made yesterday, that this Scribe Hotel had not been brought to the attention of the Board prior to this discussion in the House in June of last year?—A. At any rate whatever that statement was, it is of record. We had a particular Board meeting, to which reference was made in the letter of May 31st. Whether that was before it came up in the House last year or not, I do not know; I cannot remember.

Q. Do you think you are doing yourself justice there?—A. I am not worried about doing myself justice.

Q. I am worried about it. I don't want the matter to go with the wrong implication. I want your own story as you yourself believe it?—A. Well, I presume from that letter which you have before you, that this matter was mentioned to the Board on the third Monday in May. (To Major Bell): Would it not be the third Monday of May?

Major BELL: Yes. The Scribe Hotel was not mentioned, it was the general policy.

The WITNESS: That would be the second Monday in May.

Major BELL: Oh, you mean when the Scribe Hotel came up. The Scribe Hotel did not come up in the Board before this matter came up in the House at all. The general policy was discussed; Sir Henry Thornton explained to the Board that he considered that we should open up an office on the continent and he discussed the various places, and we finally got down to Paris; we decided that we should have an office there in order to pursue an aggressive policy on the continent. No particular building was mentioned at that time at all, and the Boar had no information at the time.

The WITNESS: I think that was on May 21st.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. You discussed with the Board the advisability of opening an office in Paris?—A. And the acquisition of the necessary property in connection with it.

[Sir Henry Thornton.]