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## Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd., Proprietors.

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Friday, January 18, 1924.

### When Labour Rules.

The whole world awaits with intense interest the outcome of the present political situation in Great Britain, and the result of the want of confidence vote which will be taken on Monday night will be but a preliminary to the more important events which will follow.

In the event, and from the appearance of things at present it seems to be a foregone conclusion, of the vote being carried, Ramsay MacDonald the Labour Leader will assume the reins of Government. His remarks so far have indicated that he has no intention, whatever his inclinations may be, to introduce a policy of a revolutionary nature. They have been temperate in tone, decisive, and if anything discouraging to those of his adherents who would hoist the red flag over Westminster and tear the constitution to shreds.

It is difficult to see how MacDonald could hope to retain the leadership of the House for a moment if he attempted to introduce extreme Radical ideas, for it is evident that any such measures would be as strongly opposed by Liberal as by Conservative. A united vote of these two parties is capable of blocking any legislation that Labour may introduce, and it is certain that if a policy were brought forward which in their opinion would tend to be detrimental either to the economical or to the constitutional safety of the country or the Empire, their action would be united and immediate.

The Labour Party contains many level headed men among its leaders; the great majority of the rank and file are certainly possessed of sound common sense, and it is safe to predict that they are unlikely to destroy the existing institutions or carry out any plans which would endanger their means of livelihood for the sake of gratifying the desires of the advocates of anarchy.

We are prone to give more attention to those who make the greatest amount of noise, but it does not follow that they dominate the situation, or even command a following of any great political weight.

The attitude of Mr. Asquith as expressed in this morning's despatch must be taken to mean that he has confidence in the Labour party to carry through a sane programme. If his utterances were given any other meaning than that, it would be equivalent to accusing him of being willing to sacrifice the cause of his country and the Empire for the sake of obtaining a political triumph at a later date. It is inconceivable that a man in his position could be capable of any such premeditated plan however great his personal ambition might be, and it is certain that if such a motive prompted his actions, he would be repudiated by the great majority of his followers.

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## Circumstances Leading to Sir Richard Squires Resignation Investigated Examination Continued This Morning

The enquiry yesterday afternoon for the most part had reference to the political matters which immediately preceded the resignation of Sir R. A. Squires in the Spring of 1923. It was admitted by Sir Richard that he had discussed the terms of his resignation and that they were suggested by Sir W. F. Coaker, Sir Richard charged the resignation was brought about by political intrigue. The inference was that the Attorney General was a party to it and then arose the question of his reputation. When the Attorney General announced that he would vindicate himself the spectators applauded, and he and the Commissioner were compelled to demand silence. The Commissioner cautioned those present that should other such demonstrations take place, the public would be excluded for the remainder of the investigation. When the Attorney General announced his intention of going into the details of his part in bringing on the enquiry Mr. Howley objected, but the Commissioner ruled that his client had brought the matter up and the Attorney General was justified in attempting to find out what was implied by political intrigue and who the intriguers were.

When Sir Richard was called to the stand the Attorney General read a letter sent by him to the witness on Sept. 10th, 1922. Asked if he had answered the letter, Sir Richard said he did not but sent a copy of it at once to his Solicitor. Mr. Howley after which he left for England. He said he did not regard the letter as a rumour. The witness previously explained that the public who had learned by rumor of the misappropriation from the funds of the Controller's Department made an attack on him. He did not take steps to vindicate himself with his party nor the public, nor did he bring the matter up on the floor of the Assembly although it would have been in order.

COMMISSIONER—Did this wide-spread attack go on uncontradicted?

A—As far as I am concerned I never contradicted the rumor.

Sir Richard explaining said the attack was made by the public who were under the impression that he had misappropriated funds of the Department according to the rumors he had heard. There was not a day passed that there was not some reference to it. He followed the course he thought best under the circumstances.

COMMISSIONER—That is a political aspect, there is a personal. I can't understand how you did not deny the accusations to the Attorney General. Was not that the object of his visit?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL elicited the fact that besides himself Sir Wm. Coaker had brought the matter up but to neither did the witness deny the accusation. To the COMMISSIONER the witness said he regarded the affair as a political intrigue with a view to the reconstruction of the administration by the exclusion of himself and the inclusion of others. After putting several questions about the charges against Dr. Campbell, the Attorney General asked the witness if he remembered having a party meeting and the attitude of the party towards the matter. After an explanation of how the demand for the resignation of Dr. Campbell arose the witness said he regarded it not as a part of one scheme of the political intrigue but as a combination. A discussion as to the exact meaning of the word intrigue was followed by Sir Richard suggesting to have the word manipulated.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—I put it to you that Dr. Barnes was the man who demanded Campbell's resignation. Do you mean he was one of the manipulators or was guilty of political intrigue?

A—No.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Do you connect me with that political intrigue?

A—I have no proof.

Q—Then who was guilty of the intrigue?

A—I am not prepared to answer.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—I want to find out who were the members of the Government party who drew your attention to the story of Mr. Meany prior to your resignation?

A—The only ones I remember were myself and Sir W. F. Coaker.

Asked if Dr. Campbell called his attention to the matter, the witness replied, "Not in detail." He mentioned that Meany had been spreading rumors that he had the goods on him.

COMMISSIONER—Did you enquire what that meant?

A—I merely laughed at the idea.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Why did you not tell your party there was nothing in the rumor?

A—Because at the time the situation arose I took the view in which I still concur.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Q—But by the statements you make, I take it it was Mr. Higgins, or Mr. Meany or myself who were actuated in bringing those charges to your attention for political motives?

A—It was my opinion by the action of Mr. Meany certainly.

COMMISSIONER—If it was true that Mr. Higgins had waited upon him and told him he was solicitor for Mr. Meany and that Mr. Meany instructed him that his arrest was contemplated, it was true that Mr. Higgins told that to Mr. Warren was it not true for him to call on you?

A—No, I had not said so. The call I presume resulted from Mr. Higgins' interview with him as solicitor for Mr. Meany.

COMMISSIONER—And his interview was only proper and right?

A—Yes.

Asked by the Attorney General if any conversation about the cheques and I.O.U.'s took place when the (Attorney General) and Sir Wm. Coaker were present, the witness replied Yes, and to further questions he said he neither confirmed nor denied the charge.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—You have stated what took place between us in the interview. Do you remember discussing with me and Sir Wm. Coaker the question of your resignation?

The witness replied Yes, but he did not try to make terms nor at any time authorize their discussion with the Opposition.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—What were the terms?

A—I outlined to you important public matters to which it was necessary for me to give special attention. I pointed out some four or five of them, if I remember rightly, and said if you wanted to be Prime Minister, which you said you did not want to be, I had no objections whatever to handing over the administration to you for one or two years while I took to clearing up certain vital matters which were outstanding.

The witness said it was correct that he was prepared to resign on Jan. 1st, 1924; that he wanted to go to the Imperial Conference to represent the Colony; that he wanted to be given the Labrador Boundary to handle, and also given charge of our portion of the British Empire Exhibition.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Is it correct or not that you told me you would resign and you had to be looked after financially for a couple of years?

A—No, I will not say in that respect, but the fact that I insisted upon handling these matters, the fees for these services would suggest I was not prepared to work for nothing.

Asked if the terms had been mentioned to Sir Michael Cashin or Mr. Higgins, the witness stated that he did not authorize it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Did I not tell you it was necessary to consult Higgins, because he knew the facts and had the making of a charge against you?

A—Whatever you said I was prepared to hand over the office of Prime Minister.

COMMISSIONER—Your retention with preference for Mr. Warren was suggested to you by Sir William Coaker or his associates.

A—The regular suggestion of my retirement was suggested to me in that way.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Did I ever make the suggestion to you to retire?

A—No.

Q—Did I ever offer terms?

A—No.

Q—Did I ever suggest to you that any of the things you asked for would come your way?

A—No.

Witness agreed that the Attorney General had informed him that unless the resignation of witness was in by ten o'clock on Monday that his would be in by eleven. Asked if there were any other reasons than those referred to for his (Attorney General's) resignation, witness replied no, except for the Meany charges.

This closed Mr. Warren's cross-examination.

(Mr. Howley re-examines Sir Richard Squires.)

In commencing his re-examination of witness, Mr. Howley, K.C., referred to the interview which took place between witness and Sir W. Coaker and Mr. Warren, and asked if the stories of the irregularities in the Department referred to were in the hands of the authorities at that time.

Witness said yes, and that the conversation which took place had to do with the retirement of witness from political activities temporarily. Mr. Howley informed the Commissioner that his questions were intended to

have reference to the suggested political intrigue and probed the questions by referring to the political conditions in Newfoundland regarding the methods of raising political funds and the way in which they were handled. It was pointed out that many subscribers preferred to maintain secrecy in the matter, and that many remained unknown even to the leader of the party. The Commissioner stated that circumstances here were apparently similar to those elsewhere. The campaign fund, it was shown, had to be kept going after the 1919 election to meet expenses of bye-elections. Such moneys obtained by the campaign committee were handed over to witness. Asked by the Commissioner if the committee actually constituted one, witness said that that was not the custom here. The Bank of Commerce account was mainly political funds. The total deposits there up to July, 1923, were between \$95,000 and \$100,000, the greater part of which was the political fund. Asked if anyone else had made deposits while he was out of the country, witness said no, with the exception of those referred to. Witness said he had no knowledge of entries in the books during 1920, '21 and the first part of 1922 of receipts or payments with the exception of some particular matters that had already been mentioned. Asked if all irregularities took place during Miss Miller's time, witness replied that he could not say yes or no.

Adjournment was then taken until eleven this morning.

Mr. Warren concludes cross-examination of Sir Richard Squires. Re-examination by Howley, K.C.

THIS MORNING'S PROCEEDINGS.

Sir Richard Squires was recalled to the witness stand when the enquiry resumed this morning and examined by Mr. Howley. The original letter from the Attorney General in reference to his resignation and dated Sunday, July 22nd, 1923 was put in by the witness and read by the Commissioner. Following the witness stated that there had been a meeting of Committee of Council, on the Friday preceding the date of the letter, at which the Attorney General, Capt. Bonds and Mr. Fooks were present. It was at this meeting, he said, he informed the Council that he was considering the matter of his resignation.

Asked by Mr. Howley if he had discovered that there was communication by Miss Miller during his visit to Montreal, the witness said he had found amongst his papers a copy of two messages which were apparently drafted by Miss Miller for transmission but he got neither of them.

The Attorney General cross-examined, referred to the letter of credit account and asked, who stated it. The witness replied he did not remember, he had no idea, he did not know.

Q—Did you have a letter of credit in 1922?

A—I did not enquire as to the date the account was opened or closed.

Asked if he drew cheques on the account, the witness could not remember specifically, but he observed "probably nobody but himself" had power to draw on it. If Mrs. Harcourt it would appear on the records of the bank. To the Attorney General who asked was there an understanding that she was to finance that account, the witness replied that he had no recollection of having a conversation with her, but if there was a conversation he would get the particulars.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—When can you get the particulars of a conversation. The Commissioner records a conversation won't he.

The Attorney General asked for what purpose was the account opened, to which the witness replied if there were a letter of credit account that he should have something to draw on whilst out of the colony.

He said, in answer to further question, that it was not improbable that it was opened by himself or Miss Saunders, but it was not impossible that some one could make deposits to its credit. He did not know if the account was increased between the years 1921 and 1922. He did not remember if the Bank had any authority to deal with Miss Miller in the matter of the account.

Asked if it would be a surprise to him to know that she had, the witness replied she would not be particularly surprised at anything.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—In 1923?

A—No.

To a further question, the witness said he had no recollection that Miss Miller made any deposits to the credit of the account, but it is possible that she would deposit political funds to credit, although it was a private account. He did not know if the amounts deposited were from private or political funds, it was all a matter of record.

The Attorney General asked what would happen if there was an overdraft. To this the witness replied the Bank would telephone himself or Miss Saunders.

COMMISSIONER—Supposing Miss Saunders could not find the money to meet the overdraft, would she ask Miss Miller?

A—I do not think so.

Asked by the Attorney General if

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The account in 1922 was overdrawn, would Miss Miller have authority to make deposits, the witness replied no, she would have no specific authority. To the question did the Bank appeal to Miss Miller, the witness replied he did not know.

The Attorney General next made an application under Statute to have an inspection of the account made and to have Mr. Archibald of the Bank of Commerce, subpoenaed to the witness, the Commissioner acquiesced, reserving to Mr. Howley right to object to his giving the particular evidence.

The Commissioner referring to the period in 1921 when the witness was abroad, asked if the account was overdrawn then; to this the witness replied yes, during August to the extent of about \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER—And that is the only account from which funds could be obtained during your absence. You were leaving an overdrawn account and notes coming due, and you left signed notes with Miss Saunders. Where they secured?

A—No.

COMMISSIONER—Were they to be discounted?

A—The Bank was prepared to carry a certain amount of accommodation. There would be a substantial office receipt, but none sufficient to meet the notes.

COMMISSIONER—Then they had to raise money somehow. Were the notes ever put in circulation?

A—As far as I know they never left Miss Saunders' possession. They were destroyed.

COMMISSIONER—Are you quite sure you did not tell Miss Miller to get money from her brother. Her story is, she approached him and raised \$47,000. The witness said he was quite sure he had no conversation with her regarding the matter.

COMMISSIONER—When was the \$4,000 paid back to Meany, the date has an important bearing. Would it be within five days after you got back?

To this Sir Richard replied that he could give no definite idea.

The Commissioner was told that witness had made it clear to Miss Miller that he did not wish to be under any obligation to Mr. Meany.

COMMISSIONER—Why should she go immediately in defiance of your wishes, and obtain further money from Meany?

WITNESS—I can give no explanation whatsoever.

COMMISSIONER—Do you swear she never told you of the later transactions—that is those that she says followed the cheques which were redeemed?

WITNESS—I do. I had no knowledge of any payments made to Miss Miller by Mr. Meany. I have received no application for re-payment of monies which may have been advanced by Mr. James Miller.

COMMISSIONER—What reason did you give Miss Miller for rescinding her power of attorney?

WITNESS—I have no recollection.

COMMISSIONER—Did you ever accuse her of any improper conduct or in any way being the cause of friction in the office?

WITNESS—Not that I am aware. I think her interest in my party did not abate on the cancellation of her power of attorney.

COMMISSIONER—Is this then a wicked conspiracy between Miss Miller and Mr. Meany to plant these I.O.U.'s on you. Is there any alternative to this. It sounds a most faithless thing.

WITNESS—I can give you no explanation.

To further questions he said, "I do not recollect her retaining money for expenses. I know she made trips to Bell Island on my affairs and I would expect her to make memoranda of her expenses."

The Commissioner referred to Mr. Howley's statement at the opening of the Enquiry that he had not been instructed that Sir Richard Squires was implicated in the first paragraph.

WITNESS replied that Mr. Howley had said "no official information."

"Did you discuss the second paragraph with Mr. Howley," asked the Commissioner.

WITNESS—I did.

COMMISSIONER—Then why didn't you discuss the first paragraph with him? This is a matter impugning your personal honour and it is a curious

matter that you did not instruct your counsel as to your defence before the this Enquiry opened.

WITNESS said he had discussed matters with Mr. Howley.

COMMISSIONER—Did you tell Mr. Howley about your interviews with the Attorney General in time to prepare his case?

WITNESS—I think Mr. Howley knew these things. He was the counsel with whom I discussed my case.

Sir Richard was permitted to leave the box after an examination lasting four days.

MISS SAUNDERS CALLED.

MISS LOUISE SAUNDERS was then called. Examined by Mr. Howley, witness stated she had been Private Secretary to Sir Richard Squires for some years. She remembered Sir Richard's departure for England in 1920. He had given her financial instructions prior to leaving, but he left her some signed notes with the amounts omitted. There were four of these, and they were on the Bank of Nova Scotia. He had told her to give them to Miss Miller if she asked for them. Witness put them in the safe. She thought she had given one to Miss Miller. She had not given any to anybody else, nor had she used any of them herself. She tore them up after Sir Richard came back. The one she had given Miss Miller had not been returned to her.

MR. HOWLEY—How did you come to give that note to Miss Miller?

WITNESS—I don't remember.

Continuing, witness said she remembered when Squires was in Montreal in January 1922. She thought Miss Miller had brought her some messages to be sent to Squires. They were probably brought to her (witness) to be coded. There was a code in use between Squires and her. The originals brought to her were not in existence so far as she knew.

(Copies of the messages were put in and identified by Miss Saunders.)

Witness said she had not sent the messages because they were political and she did not want to bother him with them. Sir Richard had told her to use her own judgment, but she had asked Dr. Campbell's advice and he had advised her not to send them.

MR. HOWLEY—Did you inform Miss Miller as to whether you had sent these messages or not?

WITNESS—No.

COMMISSIONER—Why did you not tell her when she brought the second message that you had not sent the first?

WITNESS—She did not ask me. The messages were read out and proved to be purely political.

MR. HOWLEY—Were you guided in your decision not to send the message by any opinion expressed by Dr. Campbell?

WITNESS—He advised me not to send them.

Continuing, witness said she remembered no other messages than those read out.

COMMISSIONER—Can you give any information about that note you did give out?

WITNESS—I don't know anything about it. I had to go to the head of the line to get the note as it was in the safe there.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hunt, witness said she had been told to give the notes to Miss Miller when asked for them. She herself had nothing to do with the finances of the office.

To the Attorney General, witness said she had deposited amounts to Sir Richard's account at the Bank of Commerce. She did not know of a letter of credit account. All she knew was that Squires asked to get a letter of credit when he went away. She had never received money from witness, Miss Miller brought her these messages. Apart from the fact that they had to be coded, she had acted on her own responsibility in submitting the messages to Dr. Campbell.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Why did you put both messages on the one sheet of paper?

WITNESS—I copied them both on the one time. I did see Dr. Campbell on Jan. 24, the day I got the first message. I showed him the original, and I kept it for the original because it was on several small pieces of paper which made it inconvenient to file.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—Did you understand the second message?

## Importers' Association!

Acting in compliance with a request of the Deputy Colonial Secretary, the Whole Holiday scheduled for January 23rd, has been postponed to Wednesday, January 30th. There will however, be a Half Holiday on Wednesday, the 23rd.

L. M. MARSHALL,  
Hon. Secretary.

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### Importers' Association

DATE OF WHOLE HOLIDAY CHANGED.

Representations have been made by the Deputy Colonial Secretary, on behalf of the Judges of the Supreme Court, pointing out that the holding of a whole holiday on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., would interfere with arrangements made in connection with Trials set up for that date. The Executive of the Importers' Association have therefore decided to make Wednesday, the 23rd inst., a half holiday, and Wednesday, Jan. 30th, a whole holiday.

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