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

(Continued from page 5.)

A.—I don't know if it was Sunday or a subsequent day, possibly it was Sunday.

Q.—It was discovered by yourself?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Now, I tell you that at some stage of the proceedings Mr. Hawco went there with you?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You admit that he did?

A.—I am answering your question you reminded me.

Q.—Well, I am going to remind you of something else. Do you remember on that Sunday, immediately after last Mass meeting Mr. Hawco and asking Mr. Hawco to come down with you?

A.—I daresay, I am not denying that I did.

Q.—Do you remember doing it?

A.—I remember Mr. Hawco went there possibly on Sunday and perhaps at my invitation.

Q.—Do you remember meeting Mr. Hawco on Sunday?

A.—I daresay I did, but I don't remember distinctly when it was.

Q.—Do you remember going down there?

A.—Yes, I remember going there with Mr. Hawco.

Q.—Then do you remember drawing his attention to the condition of your office?

A.—I daresay I did.

Q.—Do you remember having in your hand at the time a bundle of papers which you told Mr. Hawco gave you a hold on the Prime Minister, Sir Richard Squires.

A.—I daresay I did.

Q.—You are not sure?

A.—Possibly I did say it, I don't deny that I did.

Q.—Do you remember if that bundle of papers which you may have had in your hand, consisted of those I.O.U's?

A.—No, they did not.

Q.—Then you have not told us all you have on the Prime Minister?

A.—Haven't I?

Q.—Why haven't you?

A.—Because they are not relevant.

Q.—Do you remember at any time prior to the date of this robbery or breaking into your place of business having a conversation with the Honourable Mr. Hawco relevant to the Premier?

A.—I don't know, possibly I did. The Premier and I were then at breaking point.

Mr. Walker—You saw Mr. Hawco frequently?

A.—Yes.

Q.—It was highly probable that you referred to the subject of the Premier?

A.—Oh yes.

Mr. Howley—The I.O.U. which you put in evidence, which you held, you said you held that personally for your own protection?

A.—Yes. And I may supplement for the protection of the Department.

Q.—You were always very anxious for the protection of the Department.

A.—Oh yes.

Q.—You held that during 1921 and 1922?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For your protection and for the protection of the Department?

Q.—And for any other purpose

A.—No.

Q.—Absolutely?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you or did you not in any time in the spring of the year 1923, after these documents to the Hon. M. Hawco, to give him a hold on Sir Richard Squires?

A.—No.

Q.—If Mr. Hawco comes here and swears that you did, what would you say?

A.—That he was swearing to what is untrue. I would not part with them to anybody.

Q.—But you did part with them?

A.—Yes, later to the Minister of Justice.

Q.—He is the only one you would trust?

A.—Yes, Miss Miller and myself were the only ones who saw those until I gave them to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Walker—Did you offer any documents to Hawco?

A.—No.

Q.—Neither these nor any others

A.—No.

Mr. Howley—I think during the last fall you wrote a series of letters and published them in the "Daily News" having reference to the various matters in the Controller's Department, and your removal from office and so on?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you identify these? Are these all right?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Howley—May I ask that these be put in evidence?

Mr. Walker—Do you want me to read them all.

Mr. Howley—I am afraid you would not be equal to it.

Mr. Walker—There are such things as Sunday afternoons you know. They seem to be pretty voluminous. If I am going to ask him anything about any of the particular passages just identify the letters.

Mr. Howley—This series of letters I think was published by you about the first week in November last.

A.—The dates, I think will show that.

Q.—They seem to date from November 1st to the 20th.

Mr. Walker—November last. Yes.

Mr. Howley—Do you remember if the contents of these letters are true?

A.—No, I am not prepared to swear that. You wouldn't expect me to, would you?

Mr. Howley—No, I would not.

Q.—Do you remember amongst other things that I asked you yesterday, that I asked you when you left St. John's to go to Halifax?

A.—Yes. But I didn't know the date.

Q.—In one of your letters here, November 1st, under the heading "Particularly care for" you say "On Oct. 20th I left the city for Halifax." Is that one of the statements in your correspondence which you are not prepared to swear to?

A.—I was speaking from memory as I am speaking now, but I presume it was right.

Q.—If you said on Nov. 1st, that you went on Oct. 20th, it was probably right?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You left on the Red Cross boat which generally takes about 48 hours?

A.—Yes.

Q.—If you left here on the 20th Oct. you would reach Halifax about the 22nd?

A.—Yes. I think it was Monday morning. I am not quite sure.

Q.—So your stay in Halifax would be from the 22nd?

A.—I think I was there Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Q.—You arrived there on the 22nd and you were there two or three days.

A.—Yes. Three days, but I am not quite sure.

Q.—I am asking you this because I want to know the dates you were in Halifax.

A.—I was there from a Monday to a Thursday morning.

Q.—I just want to fix the dates. You arrived in Halifax on the 22nd Oct., and you were there about three days?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Another thing I wanted to ask you about. I think that for some time prior to the period of your appointment to the Controller's Department, you were on fairly intimate terms with Sir Richard Squires?

A.—Most intimate.

Q.—Personally and otherwise?

A.—Yes.

Q.—You were a close associate

A.—Yes.

Q.—When was that payment made?

A.—To my knowledge in December or somewhere in the winter of 1922; but I am not quite sure.

Q.—Was it made in the same December month that the three large amounts were taken out of the I.O.U.'s?

The Commissioner—That would be in December, 1921?

A.—Possibly, I do not know.

Q.—Have you or is there any record in the Department to show when that money was paid?

A.—No.

Q.—To what did you turn the extra thousand dollars that was left after you had paid yourself?

A.—The deposit slips would show that it went to the Bank.

Q.—Is there any record in the Department to show the amount taken in there that day?

A.—There is no record in the Department outside of what I have already stated.

Q.—Is this the position; that there was no system by which the amount of cash that was received in that Department from day to day could be checked up?

A.—I used to check it up myself.

Q.—Did you keep any account of the moneys?

A.—The moneys were handed over by me to the accountant, following the system that was there before my time.

Q.—Supposing that on November 8th cash for supplies of liquor to the extent of five thousand dollars was paid into the department and that on the same day Miss Miller comes up and pays one thousand dollars on account of the outstanding cheques, is there anything in the Department to show that six thousand dollars was received on that day?

A.—There is no record to show what was received from that day in the department. The amounts as I told you before were deposited through Miss Power, the Accountant, and all the monies that came in that way were deposited.

Q.—Let us follow up that illustration further and say there is a day on which five thousand dollars comes into the department?

The Commissioner—But that is merely hypothetic.

Mr. Howley. Q.—Supposing five thousand dollars comes in for liquod and one thousand dollars comes in the same way for the redemption or repayment of monies outstanding making a total of six thousand dollars and supposing Miss Power to-day or to-morrow makes a deposit of two thousand dollars, where is the other four thousand dollars gone?

A.—That would be deposited later.

Q.—Could that amount be taken out on I.O.U.'s?

A.—It may be.

Q.—Would Miss Power have any knowledge of it if taken out on I.O.U's?

A.—No.

Q.—So that the system there in the department so far as Government records were concerned was that they got as much of the receipts as John T. Meaney liked to give them. Is that the case?

A.—That looks like it.

Q.—When did you advance this three thousand dollars covering some previous months?

A.—They were only small amounts. For instance Miss Miller came to me on three or four occasions, perhaps oftener, for one thousand dollars and the cash was not in the department to give her I paid her out of my own. The aggregate was three thousand dollars.

Q.—At the time the four thousand dollars was repaid what was the total amount outstanding then?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Was it large?

A.—I cannot answer that. It may be eight, ten or twenty thousand dollars; but I don't think it could be as much as twenty. However, I do not know the amount.

Q.—Have you any personal record which will show the date upon which you received back the three thousand dollars?

A.—No, excepting the memo book that I referred to yesterday which contained many records of my own use and which, unfortunately, I have not got now.

Q.—The position then is this that you cannot give us any information as to the dates upon which you advanced this three thousand dollars. Is that it?

A.—I cannot give you the dates.

Q.—Nor can you state exactly when it was paid?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you think it may be in December?

A.—I do not know, I am not sure.

Q.—Might it have been in December?

A.—It might have been.

Q.—Was December, 1921 the month in which the three I.O.U.'s for three, two and four thousand dollars were given to you by Jean G. Miller?

A.—Yes.

The Commissioner—The two thousand I.O.U. is the one that was mislaid?

Q.—Can you tell us if any of the funds that were advanced for the I.O.U.'s in December were used to pay your four thousand dollars?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Is it a possibility that they were?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Are you able to state whether any of that money was utilized to discharge the refund of four thousand dollars?

A.—Certainly not, how could

Q.—Could it have been that the refund took place at the time of the advance?

A.—I do not know.

Mr. Howley—There is another phase of this examination which I was about to come to and which was along entirely different lines from anything we have been having here thus far and which necessitates careful going through. Therefore, might I ask your indulgence, sir, to let the matter stand over for the afternoon session and that we adjourn now for the recess.

Commissioner—I was wanting to sit to-day until 1.30 because I do not want this enquiry to be kept too long. I hope it won't embarrass you to go on now.

Mr. Howley—I was not aware, sir, that you wanted to sit until 1.30 to-day. It has been suggested to me now by my learned friends opposite that, if you like, we would take an adjournment now until 2.30 p.m. That would make up for the half hour. If that will suit the other legal gentlemen on the other side of the table, I have no objection to an adjournment till 2.30. That would be more convenient than three o'clock and will save a loss of time.

Mr. Walker—Mr. Meaney, take the box.

Mr. Howley—With your permission, sir, I ask that the further cross-examination of this witness be deferred to a later date. I find that I have a great deal of material that I have not yet had time to go through, and even as I am speaking now I am meeting material that is necessary in cross-examination. Material which I could not have had any conception of earlier. While I could hardly continue this afternoon, I would have to ask eventually for a postponement of my cross-examination of this witness to a later date, after the other side had re-examined to the extent of my cross-examination. I understand also that another witness will be available in about five or ten minutes.

Mr. Walker—I do not know that I would like to have the re-examination in parts. What kind of an adjournment do you ask for?

Mr. Howley—In the light of the position as it now is, I think that I would have to ask for at least a forty-eight hour adjournment, possibly, if I could get it, seventy-two hours, when I could feel more certain of being able to proceed.

Mr. Walker—Now this is Tuesday, and I want to get this part done as quickly as possible. What do you say Mr. Winter, or Mr. Attorney General? I am asked to allow that the further cross-examination of this witness be postponed for 48 hours, and in the meantime to take other evidence.

Mr. Hunt—I understand, sir, that you would not like the re-examination to proceed?

Mr. Walker—I think it would be better to leave that until the end of the cross-examination. Then the re-examination might become unnecessary, or a more extensive re-examination might be required. Mr. Howley, I gather, is not perfectly instructed, and if I give him a 48 hours adjournment there is nothing to prevent him from going back on what has already been gone through. I think it would be better to reserve all re-examination until the cross-examination is finished.

Mr. Hunt—So as far as we are concerned we are prepared to give any learned friend every possible facility he desires.

Commissioner—I do not wish to shut anyone out. If Mr. Howley is inconvenienced and embarrassed I am very much disposed to give way to the application and allow the cross-examination of this witness to be postponed until Thursday. But will this next Witness last longer than that?

Mr. Hunt—I cannot say.

Commissioner—I can give an adjournment until then.

Mr. Hunt—I am quite satisfied.

Commissioner—I cannot give longer than that. I allow a postponement until Thursday morning. Now if you will call the next Witness.

Mr. Winter—I might explain that the next is Miss Miller, now Mrs. Harsant. She is not quite ready yet, but she will be in about a quarter of an hour.

Commissioner—Is there any other Witness that we can have now?

Mr. Winter—No.

Commissioner—Will this Witness soon be here?

Mr. Hunt—I do not think that she will be here until 3 o'clock.

Mr. Howley—I feel that I ought to apologise to you, Sir, and to my learned friends, for the abruptness with which I made this announcement.

Commissioner—I have no doubt of your bona fides, and I know that these situations may arise suddenly.

Mr. Warren—I suggest that we rise until 3 o'clock when Mrs. Harsant will be here. I think she will be here then.

Commissioner—Mr. Meaney, you will not be required further until Tuesday morning.

Jean Harsant (sworn.) Examined by Mr. Hunt:

Q.—What is your name?

A.—Jean Harsant.

Q.—Are you married or single?

A.—Married.

Q.—When were you married?

A.—November, 1922.

Q.—Before you were married, did you hold any position in any office in town?

A.—Yes, I was with Ayre & Sons, and with my brother and with Squires and Winter.

Comissioner—When did you cease to be clerk there?

A.—I am not sure about that.

Commissioner—How long before your marriage?

A.—The last cheque received by me as salary was in Jan., 1923.

Commissioner—Up to the time you married in 1922 you were still acting in some clerical capacity?

A.—For Sir R. A. Squires personally.

Commissioner—You were acting for Sir R. A. Squires personally. When did you begin to act personally, about how long ago?

A.—I think it was in 1921.

Commissioner—From 1921 till you were married?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Hunt—Were you acting for Sir Richard Squires at the time you were with Squires and Winter?

A.—I was acting for Sir Richard.

Q.—What was your capacity in the employment of Squires and Winter.

A.—As an accountant.

Q.—What other duties did you have to perform?

A.—I was sort of General Manager of the office.

Q.—Did you keep the cash?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you keep the books?

A.—I kept them with Sir Richard.

Q.—Just what do you mean by that? Did he and you keep the books or did you keep them under his supervision?

A.—I kept the books under his supervision.

Q.—In what way did he supervise the keeping of the books?

A.—Everything was called and checked regularly.

Q.—By whom?

A.—By Sir Richard Squires and myself.

Q.—How often were these books called?

A.—I do not remember exactly it might be every month or every two months.

Q.—What books were kept were they separate books for personal accounts and firm accounts?

A.—No, just the one ledger and one cash book.

Q.—You kept the cash book?

A.—Yes, the cash was entered up every day.

Q.—Did you have anything else to do besides keeping the cash and the management of the books?

A.—I had to look after two insurance companies as well.

Q.—For which your firm were agents?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you remember having had negotiations or anything to do with Mr. J. T. Meaney of the Controller's Department?

A.—Yes, I obtained money from him for Sir Richard Squires.

Q.—Did you have any orders from Sir Richard or any power of attorney or anything in connection with obtaining money?

A.—I was given power of attorney about a year after I had been there, about 1917, in the fall of 1917 I think.

Q.—Is that still in existence?

A.—It was cancelled in 1921.

Q.—Have you any power of attorney? to-day?

A.—No.

Q.—You had it in the first instance?

A.—It was a letter sent to Mr. Glennie. Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Commissioner—A Letter of authority from the Bank Manager?

A.—I put my signature at the foot of that letter.

Mr. Hunt—Do you know what became of that document?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you not keep possession of it?

A.—I do not remember having a copy of it.

Q.—Do you remember if it was in your possession at any time?

A.—I do not remember.

Commissioner—I suppose if it was a letter to the Bank Manager it would be kept by him unless the lady had a copy.

A.—No, I did not have a copy.

Mr. Howley—Might I suggest that Mr. Meaney be asked to sit in another part of the room. He is sitting in front of witness who can be communicated with by signals, and is doing so?

Witness—That is not true. I have not seen Mr. Meaney until now.

Commissioner—Would Mr. Meaney please sit in another place if he will not mind for the sake of general harmony. Unless the lady has eyes in the back of her head she will not be able to see him and do any harm?

(Continued on Page 10.)

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