

Q. How did you come to see him? Did you come to see him about this?—

A. No. As I said, I did not know a thing about the Hotel Scribe until I met him. I met him in the Parliament Buildings, with some friends, in a friendly manner, not to speak of business at all. I was on my way to the coast; I was going to Vancouver and I stopped off in Ottawa to visit my friends.

Q. And as I understand your evidence given to Mr. Kyte, you did not discuss values with him?—A. No.

Q. But you did tell him if he was after that property—what did you say, that “He ought to be quick about it”? that “There were two other concerns after it”?—A. Yes, that is about all the conversation we had.

Q. Who were the two other concerns?—A. That I am not at liberty to tell you. I am sorry, Sir Henry, I got that information in a very confidential manner before leaving Paris.

Q. Did you get that from the concerns themselves?—A. One of them, yes.

Q. But you cannot tell us the reason—

Mr. KYTE: He gave you the reason.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: He says it was in confidence.

Mr. KYTE: Is that not a reason?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Confidence might mean one of two things—

Mr. KYTE: Confidence means confidence.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: It might make a difference; sometimes confidence is justified and sometimes not.

The CHAIRMAN: He does not care to give the answer.

The WITNESS: They were reliable concerns.

*By Sir Henry Drayton:*

Q. Do you know what price they were willing to give?—A. Only from hearsay, if that is any good.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, that is not any good.

The CHAIRMAN: Any other questions by members of the Committee? If not, the witness is excused. Thank you very much, Mr. Pratt.

(The witness retired).

The CHAIRMAN: I understand Senator Wilson is here, to give some evidence. Will someone move that he be heard?

Mr. KYTE: In regard to this property?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. MACKINNON: I so move.

Mr. GAUVREAU: I second the motion.

The motion agreed to.

Hon. J. M. WILSON called and examined.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I saw you sitting there and I heard you say the other day you had seen this property in Paris, and, frankly, that you had formed a favourable opinion of it. This is an informal Committee and we are trying to get all the information we can.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kyte, will you proceed?

Mr. KYTE: Of Sir Henry (Drayton)?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: He is the Minister's witness.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: A witness for the public.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I don't know about that.

[Mr. Louis Pratt.]