

he was Whip.

Ashplant Report Sustained.

Although only one witness—Arthur C. Carty, reporter—was present in connection with the case, the committee proceeded with the ex-Ald. H. B. Ashplant charges made before the London City Council in discussion of the Gas Bill, when Mr. Ashplant suggested that members of the Legislature might be bribed out of a certain fund.

Mr. Carty, an experienced reporter, maintained absolutely that the report as sent by him to The Globe was a correct report of what Mr. Ashplant had said. When exception was taken to it he had immediately seen other Council members individually and their opinions, which he had taken down in writing, were to the effect that his was a correct report.

Mr. Carty declined to be led into venturing an opinion as to Mr. Ashplant's veracity or responsibility.

Asked by Mr. Charles McCrea: "Is he in the habit of making irresponsible statements?" Mr. Carty replied, "He is in the habit of making statements."

Herbert Penny, London Advertiser reporter, corroborated Mr. Carty's report of the Council proceedings. He and Carty, he said, had not compared notes after the meeting.

The committee will meet again Tuesday afternoon.

Quotes from Report.

Mr. Carty, on being sworn, read from The Globe his report of the Ashplant statement concerning which the Legislature ordered investigation. His report of Mr. Ashplant's statement during his objection to the proposed agreement between the City Gas Co. of London and the citizens was:

"Suppose McCrea should be given \$15,000 to get this through; suppose the company should take a block of this stock and distribute it among the members of the Legislature to get this through," he commenced, when Mayor Little interjected a protest, declaring that he would not sit to hear the honor of the Provincial legislators so impugned. Mr. Ashplant's rejoinder was that he had not said that this would be done, but only that it could be done, and, he added, "it is the most natural thing in the world if the company should do it."

Referring to the general report, Mr. Ferguson asked: Is that a correct account of what took place at the meeting?

A.—That is a correct account.

Mr. Carty—This article was written within 30 minutes after the incident occurred. I went to the telegraph office with the story.

Q.—Do you take shorthand?

A.—No. I do not use shorthand. It was a brief incident, only three or four sentences.

Q.—Did you make notes?

A.—Oh, yes, I made notes, absolutely.

Mr. Ferguson—Mr. Carty has not his notes. They were destroyed.

Getting Corroboration.

Mr. Carty—Immediately after having written this thing, within thirty minutes after the incident, I threw my notes aside at the telegraph office. Of course, I did not anticipate there was going to be any denial. The following day I found that the office had been cleaned up and the notes had gone. And then when it was denied, I called up each member of the City Council. I got Mayor Little, Alderman Harley, Alderman J. C. Wilson, Chairman of the committee, Alderman John Bridge, Alderman Drake, Alderman W. A. Wilson, Alderman W. Boss, Alderman Brighton and Alderman Ashton. I interviewed each of them. What I said was this: I read the item in The Globe to which denial had been given. I said: "This is my story of what occurred at the Council. I asked him to listen very carefully, and then tell me what he thought about it. Each man gave me his statement of whether in his judgment I had made a correct report of the meeting. Then, with this statement I got from each Alderman, before sending them to Toronto, I read them back and had each man approve, (each of the persons interviewed) before it was sent out. So these are all verified interviews before publication, with one exception.

Telling Him He Was Right.

The interviews, which appeared in The Globe of March 9, were all corroborative of the report Mr. Carty made of the meeting. Mayor Little had said: "When he (Ashplant) said that the company might well give \$15,000 to Mr. McCrea I at once left the meeting, and did not hear the finish of his speech."

Ald. Frank E. Harley said: "I followed very closely the astounding statements made by Mr. Ashplant. I read The Globe report and those are his exact words, stated absolutely correctly."

Ald. J. C. Wilson said: "Absolutely the statement made by Mr. Ashplant in his remarks."

Ald. John Bridge—The statement as given in The Globe is correct.

Ald. G. B. Drake—Unqualifiedly what Mr. Ashplant said before the Council was exactly as reported.

Ald. W. A. Wilson, Ald. W. Boss and Ald. B. F. Brighton also agreed to the substance of the report.

Mr. McCrea Asks Questions.

Jocularly Mr. McCrea interrupted at one juncture, "Please tell me what I was to receive?"

A.—\$15,000.

Q.—Was it in stock?

A.—He didn't say Mr. McCrea was to receive it. He said, suppose that he should.

Mr. Carty was also taken over his interview with Mr. Ashplant, sought, he said, for the purpose of ascertaining just what it was Mr. Ashplant maintained he did say at the meeting. He read the interview with Mr. Ashplant, which in part is as follows: "I was arguing that if the company felt like doing it, it could give its solicitor a good commission or fee in a perfectly honest, legitimate and straightforward way, to see that the bill would go through. I meant that it could give such money to Mr. Graydon, or any solicitor, and then it occurred to me that Mr. Graydon did not speak for his client in the Legislature, and that Mr. McCrea had spoken for the company, and I brought in the name of Mr. McCrea in a purely incidental way to show that he was not intended. I meant that such companies could give sums of money to three or four solicitors, as is generally done for propaganda purposes."

Mr. Carty—I asked him (Mr. Ashplant) repeatedly to tell me the exact sentence in which Mr. McCrea's name was used, but I could not get it. . . . I asked him this absolutely dispassionately for his version of the story, and told him I was using exactly his story. . . . I raised another point and said: "What did Mayor Little take offense at when he protested and left the Council Chamber?"

To this last query Mr. Ashplant had replied, Mr. Carty said, "The Mayor gets mad at me on general principles."

Since then, Mr. Carty said, he believed Mr. Ashplant had stated that he would not be responsible for anything that did not appear over his own signature.

Q.—Are you an experienced reporter?

A.—Yes. I have been a reporter continually since 1918.

Q.—Did he (Mr. Ashplant) appear in a representative capacity?

A.—Yes. There is what is called the High Cost of Living Committee, and I believe he and Mr. Thompson are members of that committee, and they appeared under that committee.

"In Habit of Making Statements."

Mr. McCrea—Has he such a reputation in the community that when he makes statements such as you have said he did make people are likely to believe him?

A.—Well, Mr. Ashplant would probably be believed by his own friends.

Q.—Well, what is his general reputation when he makes a statement of that kind?

A.—Well, I do not think that is a fair question.

Q.—Is he in the habit of making irresponsible statements?

A.—He is in the habit of making statements.

Mr. Brackin (Chairman)—Responsible or otherwise.

The Chairman having ruled the question to be unfair, Mr. Carty said: "I am absolutely dispassionate in this thing, and I was when I reported this thing. I did not care what he said. I was simply there