

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

go through papers that might be personal.

Q.—You have possession of them?  
A.—I have possession of them, absolutely.

Q.—Have you made every effort, Mr. Clarkson, to find out where this Mason cheque of \$15,000 would likely go? A.—I have made every effort, but you can quite understand there is an enormous volume of papers in this bank over twenty or thirty years. We have looked through a lot of them; looked in every place where we think it might be. We haven't found it. It might turn up some day—it might not.

Q.—It is continuing? A.—It is continuing. We are going through papers all the time on different matters.

#### Tracing Legal Tender.

Chairman Finlayson—Some members of the committee seem to think that there is some mysterious way by which it is possible to trace these legal tender? A.—If you subpoena every bank in the country and have them produce their deposit slips until you run across the deposits in legals, and then sift that down—but you know how many banks and branches there are in this Province. They don't keep records of the numbers of legals.

M. M. MacBride—And you would have nothing definite then? A.—You would have to prove the deposit of these legals came from this source.

#### Sunk Without Trace.

Mr. Sinclair—Were there any transactions of a similar nature prior to Sept. 23 or along there, 1919? A.—No; Mr. Nash can give you that evidence. I asked for a statement of all the transactions and the statement we filed here are all the transactions. There is one other transaction which I did not report. In June, 1919, a cheque was cashed for \$10,000 and the money taken up to Mason's home in \$100 bills. Nine of these went into his account in the loan company. The other ninety have disappeared.

Q.—That is, the Central Canada Loan? A.—Mason had an account in the Central Canada.

Q.—Are there other transactions where you could say Mason took out money? A.—There are transactions where he took moneys out of the bank, but not in the way of legals and I have looked over for a number of years, and I don't find any more transactions involving legals in them.

#### Subcommittee to See Haney.

The committee then discussed at length a suggestion by Mr. Currie that a subcommittee or the Chairman and Mr. Clarkson go to Mr. Haney and get an affidavit on the matter of the \$25,000 cheque. Mr. Sinclair pointed out that a declaration of that kind was of no use, and that you could not produce it in any court without a cross-examination. If Mr. Haney could not be cross-examined, certainly his evidence in chief could not be taken. Chairman Finlayson said that he would not undertake to force himself in on a sick man, and Mr. Belanger said it would only be asking a sick man to swear whether he was guilty of conspiracy.

Mr. Currie—It is very important for Mr. Haney that he should clear this up because if he doesn't he will have Mr. Clarkson after his estate. As far as the credibility of the two men, Mason and Haney, I would know which one to believe.

Mr. McKeown—Mr. Sinclair knows very well we have been going on taking evidence that would never be taken in a court if a man were in the box. We are not trying anyone here. We want information any way it comes.

It was agreed at this stage that Mr. Clarkson and Mr. Finlayson should go to see Mr. Haney, and, if possible, get his statement, and immediately after the committee passed a resolution, on motion of Mr. Graves, to instruct Mr. Clarkson to examine any account of the late J. Cooper Mason in the Central Canada Loan and Savings Company, and report back to the committee today.

#### Bank Supervisor's Story.

J. C. Whittaker, former supervisor of the bank, was recalled, and he said that any information he would have about the Home Bank four million-dollar Government loan would come through Mr. Mason.

Mr. Sinclair—You have read the evidence in the paper about the \$25,000 item being paid out by the Home Bank on Sept. 23, 1919? A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know anything about that? A.—As I told Mr. Clarkson, on thinking back over the circumstances, Col. Mason told me that it was going to the Parliament Buildings by Mr. Haney.

Q.—What was going? A.—The \$25,000 in legals.

Q.—He told you it was going in legals to the Parliament Buildings? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Haney that

day? A.—Yes; I would not swear as to that day.

Q.—Did you see the \$25,000, or any package that would indicate that? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You did not see any envelope? A.—No.

Q.—Mason told you \$25,000 was going to the Parliament Buildings that day? A.—Yes.

Q.—And what else did he tell you in connection with that? A.—He told me a great many things.

Q.—What do you remember he did tell you?

Mr. McCrea—Were these instructions in connection with this transaction?

Mr. Sinclair—Apparently they were pretty close to it.

Mr. McCrea—Not just rumor or hearsay?

#### Going By Mr. Haney.

Mr. Sinclair—What did Mason say to you? A.—He said \$25,000 is going to the Parliament Buildings.

Q.—On that day? A.—On that day.

Q.—Did he tell you how it was going to go? A.—Yes.

Q.—What did he say as to how it was going to the buildings? A.—It was going to the buildings by Mr. Haney.

Q.—And Mr. Haney was then what officer of the bank was he? A.—He was President.

Q.—And that this money was going to the Parliament Buildings in the hands of the President of the bank? A.—Yes.

Mr. Sinclair—What else did you hear from Col. Mason? A.—What do you want to know?

Q.—Well, about this very transaction; I don't want to lead you.

Mr. Currie (to witness)—Go ahead and tell your story and stop chewing gum.

Mr. Sinclair—What else? A.—Nothing beyond that.

Q.—Did you see Mr. Haney about the bank that day? A.—I cannot swear now that he was there on that day.

Q.—And you cannot tell the committee whether he left for the Parliament Buildings or not? Is there anything else in connection with this \$25,000 matter that you heard at that time?

Mr. McCrea—Do you mean rumor, or that Mason said to him?

Mr. Sinclair—I am asking if there was anything else Mason told you about the transaction? A.—Mr. Mason told me what I have already said, casually, as gossip.

#### Want's Mason's Language.

Q.—Did he tell you anything more? A.—I cannot recollect.

Q.—Where were you when he told you this? A.—In my own office.

Q.—I want to get from you whatever Col. Mason told you that day in relation to the \$25,000. Now, you cannot think of anything else than that? A.—No.

Q.—Did you get any further information from any other person in the bank about it? A.—No.

#### Price Cross-Examines.

Provincial Treasurer Price drew from the witness statements that when he was previously before the committee he had not given the information he had since given to Mr. Clarkson and the committee.

Mr. Price—You didn't tell me that? A.—No.

Q.—I didn't know anything about it, so I could not have brought it before this committee? That is quite right? A.—That is true.

Q.—And just what was it brought it back to your mind? A.—Inspector Greer asked me if the bank had a chauffeur. He asked me if Colonel Mason had a chauffeur, and I said no, that the bank had one and that the bank chauffeur occasionally drove Mr. Haney. And I started to think back in connection with it, and I remembered that the bank car was driven that day on Mr. Haney's business.

#### Chauffeur Now in California.

Q.—Now, Did Mr. Greer get in touch with the chauffeur. A.—The chauffeur is in California.

Mr. Price—For the information of the committee I had information that the chauffeur might know something about this transaction, and I have placed it in the hands of the police, and they have tried to get that.

Q.—And you had no instructions from the General Manager about this? A.—None.

Mr. Currie—You didn't remember that when you were here before? A.—I did not.

Mr. Currie—Are you sure you didn't? A.—I am looking at you directly and telling you I didn't.

Mr. Currie—Has anybody else spoken to you about this except officers of the Crown? A.—No.

#### Did Not Tell The Globe.

Mr. Currie—You weren't down at The Globe office telling them about it, were you? A.—No, sir.

Q.—You were not telling anybody in this committee? A.—No.

Q.—How did it get out here that Mr. Sinclair (the Liberal Leader) knew all about it, and they subpoenaed you here? A.—I don't know.

Q.—You must have some idea.

Mr. Sinclair—Do you think I know anything?

Mr. Currie—Well, you are a pretty good mind-reader.

Mr. Currie—You told Mr. Greer? A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you tell Mr. Clarkson? Whom did you tell? A.—Major Nash of the Clarkson firm.

Q.—Was there anybody from The Globe office interviewing you? A.—No.

Q.—None of their reporters? A.—No.

Q.—You haven't disclosed this to anybody except Mr. Nash. Did Mr. McGarry know anything about it? A.—No.

#### Mason's Veracity.

Q.—Was Cooper Mason in the habit of telling truths all the time. Was he a reliable man when he told stories around the bank? A.—No.

Q.—All right; now we are getting on common ground.

Q.—Would it be natural if Mason was putting that to his own account that he would be handing it to somebody up in the Parliament Buildings?

Mr. Sinclair—Get the facts; if we must educate you young lawyers we are going to do it right. (Laughter.)

Mr. Currie—Well, I have forgotten as much law as you ever knew. (Laughter.)

Q.—You know they were all tip-toeing and looking through keyholes all the time? A.—Not in my department.

Q.—However, your curiosity was a little unsatisfied until Mr. Mason told you this story. Was that right? A.—No.

Q.—Who drew the cash out of the teller's office? A.—I don't know.

Q.—And did you know that day that \$25,000 had gone out? A.—Mason told me.

Q.—That was his explanation of it, wasn't it? A.—Yes.

Q.—You were told to keep out of this room this morning, and still you come back; do you think you were being fair to the committee? A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you get any of that money? A.—Yes.