

morning, the ones where you interposed and got the option and got the property, you knew, before that time, the Dem-
 erate Banknote Company had been negotiating for the acqui-
 sition of these other tracts, Lower Semeria and the Aurora,
 did you not?

A. I believe they had made several offers on these tracts.
 Q. That had been going on as early as February 20, 1917 had
 it not?

A. I can't say, I had nothing to do with their negotiations.
 Q. Then it is evident that these negotiations, these prior
 negotiations for these two tracts had been going on before
 you became manager for the company.

A. I believe it had, but only from evidence brought out in
 the various Banknotes.

Q. You know Mr. James A. King, don't you, Joseph A. King?
 A. I know Mr. Joseph A. King.

Q. Who is he?

A. At the time I was manager, he was Chairman of the Board
 of Directors of the Demerite Banknote Company.

Q. He was a reputable citizen of British Columbia?

A. He was Crown Solicitor.

Q. Do you consider him, and was he considered as a repu-
 table citizen of British Columbia?

A. I don't see why I should go on record as a character
 witness for Mr. Joseph A. King.