

THE CHAIRMAN: Q. You saw the doctor twice after you got the treatment? A. I seen the doctor twice, and then I left and didn't go no more.

BY MR. MURPHY: Q. Now, did Dr. Mitchell say anything to you about Miss Caisse's treatment?

A. I was asking him because I said I heard of a person at Bracebridge.

Q. After it was over when you went back to him?

A. Yes, he asked me.

Q. Did Dr. Mitchell say "well, she cured you but don't go around telling everybody? What did he say?

A. he said "you are cured, you feel good now". He said "that is alright".

Q. Alright.

23 AUGUSTA DOUGLAS, sworn

Biopsy

THE CHAIRMAN: Q. You didn't give evidence at Bracebridge, did you? A. No, I didn't.

BY COMMISSIONER CALLAHAN: Q. Where do you live?

A. Highland Creek.

BY MR. MURPHY: Q. Are you Mrs. T. Douglas of Highland Creek, Ontario? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you attended by Dr. A. J. Hoare of Markham, Ontario? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Herre is the report by Dr. J.A. Ansley, pathologist, dated August 5, 1938, number T-5214-38. Diagnosis, carcinoma of cervix. (Reads report). Now, when did you first become ill, Mrs. Douglas? A. Oh well, I suffered ---

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Q. Tell the Commission what trouble you suffered from and when?

A. Since 1927 I have been suffering with terrible back ache. I have their names here of the doctors whom I have visited.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: She didn't have cancer then.

Perhaps we can omit that.

BY MR. MURPHY: Q. Let us get down to 1938 when Dr. Ansley, the pathologist diagnosed it?

A. Previous to this the doctors diagnosed it as lumbago but evidently it turned into cancer, and what I figured was the doctors wanted to open my back and take out this nerve that was bothering me, and re-lace my back with silver wire, but I refused to have this operation, I would rather stay on my feet and die, if necessary. So time went on and I still suffered with this terrible back ache and the doctors gave me opiates which I would be under for several days neither knowing what I was eating or saying or anything else, but I was worn down to almost nothing.

Q. Did you lose weight?
I certainly did.

A. Did I lose weight?

Q. How many pounds?
A. Last summer I weighted about 114 and so I went to Dr. Heffering, and he thought it was only my age, and he doctored me for a while, and then he got alarmed at the haemorrhages I was having, and he sent me to Dr. Frawley, the gynecologist in the Medical Arts Building, and he is the one -- I was supposed to go to the hospital and have a little bit taken out for analysis. (biopsy?)

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Q. Biopsy? A. But I took down with a bad cold and I went to Markham, and my sister took me down to the local doctor, and he examined me and he took a section and sent it and you have the report.

Q. Alright. A. And with that report I was supposed to go into the hospital and take radium which I refused to do. I said "if I have to take radium I will die first."

Q. With your boots on? A. With my boots on. Thank God I had enough will power. I fought the doctors and I am still. Thank God I have strength to do it for Rene Caisse. I am not getting excited and I am not cuckoo.

Q. In any event, you refused radium, and then what did you do? Did you go to Bracebridge? A. I went to Bracebridge and I took this diagnosis with me that Dr. Hoare had given me to enter the hospital with.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: Q. When did you begin Miss Caisse's treatments? A. I imagine it was about the 12th of August.

Q. 1938? A. Yes.

Q. That was just a week after you had the report?

A. Just a week. We were going on our vacation north and we said it would be a good chance to visit Miss Caisse and find out if she could do anything for me. She said Had I had radium. I said "no", and she says Thank God for that". So I continued treatment. I stayed there. I boarded in Bracebridge for six weeks. I had these terrible haemorrhages. I had to get up

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and make pads in the night, and I lay in my bed there too weak to move about. I managed to get up and go to the clinic to get my treatments and -

BY MR. MURPHY: Q. Did you improve?

A. Did I improve? I gained 17 pounds

Q. In what length of time? A. In six weeks.

and I improved my appetite, and I was able to sleep.

Q. What about this condition of this cervix that you spoke of? A. Well, after about eight

weeks why I passed a growth about that size.

Q. About the size of a baseball?

A. A baseball - it was about that size approximately, but there was much more material came away outside of that.

Q. Yes, exactly, and then did you improve?

A. I was improving all the time because I got so I was able to take a walk. As I lay in my bed I could see the clinic on the hill and it reminded me of the Cross on the Hill of Calvary. I know you men do not care anything about this but just the same it was the only ray of hope I had in the world. I know you gentlemen do not want to listen.

Q. We are not interested in that. The point is this

Are you Cured Now?

A. I am well

on the way.

Q. What symptoms are left of this trouble?

A. I still have a discharge of water.

Q. Water? A. Yes.

Q. From blood to water? A. Yes.

description in Braebridge



THE CHAIRMAN: Has there been any biopsy, any subsequent biopsy, any subsequent section?

MR. MURPHY: Q. You have not been to any medical ~~and~~ since. A. I have a week ago Friday. 1939

My husband wanted to know how I was getting along and he took me down to the General Hospital, and Dr. E. Cosbie examined me with the speculum, and he says "it doesn't look like there is much wrong with you. Your heart is perfect. Your blood pressure is normal." and he says "I better scrape this off and send it down." He says "you can take a bit of radium. I said "I am not taking your bit of radium. I am keeping on with my treatments". He said, "what kind of treatments are you taking?" "Oh", I said, "I only submitted to this examination. It really wasn't necessary. It is just to console my husband that I was improving." "Well", he said --

Q. What weight have you gained all told?

A. I gained from 115 to 131.

Q. 16 pounds? A. Yes.

Q. What do you weight to-day? A. Well, I haven't been weighted for two weeks.

Q. You are in much better condition?

A. I am doing all my own work, and when I went to Nurse Caisse---

Q. Were you doing that before you went?

A. No, sir, When I went to Nurse Caisse I went on a bed made in the back of the car on a mattress with a feather tick folded on it, and I could stand no

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jolting of the car, and I had to be very careful how I slept or I would get this terrible pain in my back, and after eight weeks I was able to ride back and forth to Bracebridge, 220 miles every Saturday for my treatments, and my little girl was operated on for appendicitis, and I came home and took charge of the house and took charge of her, and have been going back and forth for treatment ever since.

Dr. Cosbie says " If that is what she has done with a few keep on taking her treatments." He says " they are marvellous. They are worth a million."

THE CHAIRMAN: Before Mrs. Douglas leaves I was wondering if the doctors on the Commission thought it would be of any value if a biopsy was had now, an original biopsy.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: It is quite possible Dr. Cosbie may have taken a scraping or did he? A. He said it was not necessary, that I had had that specimen taken, and it was not necessary to molest me any more.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. A. So I pray to God you men will deal justly in the sight of the Lord in this case. The all seeing eye is upon you. Beware. -- The witness retires.

COMMISSIONER VALIN: Who is Dr. Cosbie?

COMMISSIONER YOUNG: He is on the staff.

26 ELIZA VEITCH, sworn

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Veitch has not given evidence before, has she?

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