

Saturday, December 1, 1923.

Lacau arrived.

Paid salaries to date.

Fixed wooden screen between opening to Sepulchral Chamber and Antechamber to protect shrine while demolishing the partition wall.

Commenced pulling down partition wall. The top part to level of wooden lintel found to be hollow, and comprised dry stone-work of splinters of limestone and flint boulders plastered only on the outer faces of this wall.

Prepared tray of bran to receive the painted portions of the partition wall on inner side. Lucas arrived by morning train from Cairo, but did not go up the Valley.

At Laboratory Mace and Bethell having cleaned the body of the second golden chariot were working upon fragments of harness etc. belonging to d^o and others.

Scott who should have arrived at Luxor today deferred his departure from Cairo until tomorrow Sunday evening - he should arrive Monday 3rd.

We now have three native inspectors, namely Shaban Eff., Ibreheem Eff. and Abbadir Eff., besides the Chief Inspector Engelbach, watching us, on behalf of the Eg. Gov. I imagine to see if we do not take anything - this is amusing especially in the case Abbadir Eff. whose antecedents are certainly not of the best.

Thursday, December 13, 1923

Lacau, at 9 am, made me an official visit in reference to his two letters (received on 12th). One of these letters demanded a full list of my staff, and the other introduced new rules as to visits & visitors to the tomb.

In the case of the staff the Eg. Gov. claimed the right of approving or refusing any member they thought fit.

In the case of visits and visitors, whether friends or otherwise, the absolute control was to be placed in charge of the Chief Inspector, Engelbach, to whom I was to consult on every occasion. In other words I had to get the Govs. sanction before employing anyone on the staff, and could ask no one into the tomb without Engelbach's permission.

My answer to Lacau was as follows:

I have had a policy dictated which has been making my work increasingly impossible. Additional communications which I received from you yesterday have brought the matter to an absolute impass. I decline absolutely to follow the instructions I have now received from you and I now propose to conduct the work in the tomb under the legal rights with which I am empowered under the terms of my original concession.

To this Lacau, I think somewhat taken aback, began his usual fountain of words, a great deal of which referred to my actions and "l'avenir".

I refused further discussion, etc., & we eventually went to the Valley & inspected the recent discoveries made during these last few days in the tomb. Lythgoe, Harkness, & Mace were present at this interview with Lacau, Callender acted as interpreter. Though grave as the whole matter was the whole incident was not without amusing aspects.

Harkness and Lythgoe saw tomb & Lab.

Tuesday, December 18, 1923.

Saw Tottenham at his house (a.m.) who explained to me the Eg. Gov's. attitude in the matter of visitors to tomb and our staff - incorporated in the two letters received a few days back. Saw Abd El Hamid Pasha Suleman (Min. P.W.D.) 4 pm. and had two hours conversation with him. It became evident that the whole question of staff and visitors raised by the Gov. was the direct result of local press criticism. In fact the Min. admitted it to be so and to save his face asked me not to allow Merton to enter the tomb except on press view days. His intention was upon receiving a list of my staff from me to strike off Merton whom he said he could not disassociate with The Times. I explained my position in the matter, that Merton was a member of my staff, seconded by The Times, and that the whole of the press news was through me - he Merton not being allowed to send any telegram other than signed by me, and that I should create a wrong precedent if I accepted such a proposition as allowing the Gov. to accept or refuse entry of anyone of my staff. I said that I feared I could not take such a step or allow of any such alleged rights of the Eg. Gov. which was a direct attempt on the part of the Eg. Gov. to interfere in purely private matter outside the terms of the concession and that I felt obliged to continue my work under the terms invested me by the original concession. But, before giving an absolute final answer I should like time to consider & confer with my collaborators. We agreed to 11.30 am the following day for that decision.

Mace had returned Cairo from Alex. with his family - saw him early in the morning.

Dined with Tottenham.

Wednesday, December 19, 1923.

Conferred with Mace & Merton in the morning.

Saw the H.C. Lord Allenby and explained to him the situation & informed him that I intended to adhere to my decision given verbally to Lacau on the 13th. He was in sympathy with my action. I afterwards (11.30 am) saw the Min. P.W.D. where I informed him that after very careful consideration of the matter and Gov's proposals with my collaborators I was obliged to adhere to my original decision & to refuse the terms dictated by the Gov. incorporated in the two letters received last week and that I also felt obliged to continue the work in the tomb in accordance with the powers invested by the original concession. I offered to put in writing this refusal in such a manner that it could be published broadcast and exonerate him in the eyes of the press. The Min. was not agreeable to this, so I told him that I would send my answer by letter in normal manner.

Lunched with Lord Allenby who in conversation told me that though he was unable to take any

action in this matter he was absolutely in sympathy with my decision. (I think rather pleased to see Eg. Gov. get into trouble).

Thursday, February 7, 1924.

As arranged with Tottenham the press were allowed to visit the tomb during the morning. Arrived Cairo. Saw Gardiner in the morning with whom I had a long conversation with regard to attitude with this new Ministry. He assuring me that their attitude was to be friendly, and to be willing to let bygones be bygones. He (Gardiner) seemed to have meddled with the affair rather much, but with obviously good intention.

As arranged saw Min. P.W.D. at 5 pm at the P.W.D. On arrival I was told that the Min. was late and that I should have to wait some twenty minutes. While so doing I was called to go and see Tottenham at his office, when Tottenham advised me to only raise the question of the opening of the sarcophagus with the Minister - in fact he said it would be better if all former negotiations could be forgotten & papers destroyed. Tottenham, having thus somewhat disarmed me, suddenly thrust upon me a document which his ministry considered threw light upon the question of division of the discovery. This document was a permit given to Lord C. to make an investigation in the Great Northern Valley (8 Dec. 1918) where I thought I had made a possible discovery. At first I did not recognise it, but when Tottenham pointed out that it was signed by me & I began to read it carefully the whole subject came clear to my memory & I at once explained to him that it had nothing to do with the Valley of the Kings contract. We then proceeded to the office of the Min. P.W.D.

There, with Tottenham, I met the new Minister, Morkhos Bey Hanna, who appeared to be most gracious, and who almost immediately complained that I had sent Gardiner to him with complaint against the S. des A. This I explained was a mistake and that I believed Gardiner had gone to him as representative of his colleagues with regard to their feelings in the question of action on part of the S. des A., and that it was nothing to do with me. The Min. then asked me if I was 'in accord' with the Service of Antiquities and I told him that I was not 'in accord' with their methods of administration but that personally other than that my feelings were quite different. He said or rather asked me that I had any grievances would I write him on the matter. I answered in the affirmative. The Min. said that I thought possibly I had thought I might be legally within my rights, I had made a great mistake in forming a contract with The Times as it had certainly caused a nasty odour with the local press. I agreed, but reminded the Min. that it was not altogether my doing and that The Times contract was left me as a legacy which I had to protect, but I assured the Min. that after April (1924), that contract would be at end & I undertook it would not occur again. He then said that I was wrong in going America so early this year - that I was in taking up this scientific work a public servant. I pointed out to him that we were not in exact agreement in this matter, and I immediately brought up the question of the opening of the sarcophagus - I should add that Tottenham told the Min. that the previous negotiations had been of an acrimonious nature and that they better be left alone - the Min. said let us not bring up the past. At this moment of the conversation the Min. said to me that Mons. Lacau was waiting & could he bring him in? I acquiesced, whereupon Lacau came in with a dossier in his hand - Tottenham having already brought a dossier with him. Lacau immediately referred to past events and said that I was guilty of taking into the tomb a great number of visitors - I answered 'let us stick to facts' I haven't taken in one twentieth of the number the government had invited, to which remark Tottenham agreed.

The Min. referred to the question of publicity to which Lacau laughed, but at this point I reverted the conversation to the question of opening the sarcophagus and said to the Min. I hoped H.E. would be present at the ceremony. The Min. asked me whether they would see the 'Corpse'? I replied that as far as we were able to judge from previous evidence of the customs of the royal burials, no, but probably only the outer coffin of a series of coffins containing the royal mummy. The Min. was disappointed at this & said he did not think it worth while coming. Then proposed that he should send a delegate and that in the presence of Mons. Lacau, and other representatives of the Service, I would, with my collaborators, open the sarcophagus, and that if we were satisfied that the results were sufficiently interesting we would advise H.E. to come and view it. To this the Min. was in agreement. I also requested that the press should not be allowed to see the tomb again on Monday 11th as they would see nothing more than on the past press view (Thursday 7th), but that I proposed opening the tomb to them on Wednesday 13th to see results of our opening the sarcophagus on Tuesday 12th. I also asked for three or four days from the 14th for taking records, when no visitors would be allowed to enter the tomb and that then after the Ministry, if they so wished, had viewed the tomb, we should open it for a period of say about ten days to the public - or rather authorised visitors holding permits from the Ministry. The Minister was in agreement to this and asked Lacau, Tottenham and myself to talk over the arrangements, sign them, & present them to him. To this we (Lacau, Tottenham & self) agreed to do at Lacau's house the following morning (8th) at 11am. This ended the interview. (I should remark here that though the whole negotiations appeared be quite amicable I felt inwardly that there was an atmosphere of hostility; there was certainly an element of dictation in the interview.)

When leaving the Minister's office, just outside the door, Lacau attacked me with regard to Gardiner's conversation with him - I answered that I knew nothing about it & appealed to Tottenham against any attacks of this kind.

Saturday, February 9, 1924.

Arrived Luxor - Gurna. Conferred with Mace who lunched with me. I represented to Mace that though I had gained the points we wanted for our scientific side of the investigation and also those regarding press and public visits, I, personally, was not impressed with the general attitude of this new Gov., and stated that 'oil and water would not mix'.

Previous to my departure to Cairo, Engelbach had written to me a letter suggesting a quite new rule with regard to our light supply in the tomb. It was to the extent that if I require light in the afternoon I must give him at least 2 hours notice before hand - this so as to enable him to check his engineers accounts and only for that reason. I annotated his letter asking to waive the point as I could not always let him know beforehand whether I might want the light in the afternoon or not and if it was a question of accounts I would check them for him - therefore would he please let the matter rest at that.

I also reiterated this request to Engelbach in the tomb on the same morning I wrote the note in reply to his.