

HUGH GRAHAM HAS NOTHING TO CONCEAL

In a letter to The West, Hugh Graham, editor of the Montreal Star writes as follows on the election funds incident:

(Editor, The West, Regina)
 Sir,—From several attempts which have been made to interview me since my return to Canada touching the subject of my subscription to the Conservative election fund for the Quebec district during the last general election, I infer that there is still some public interest in the subject, and as it is of importance to myself, at least, that any impression which goes abroad shall be accurate, I have judged it better to deal with the matter in a signed statement than in an informal interview. Perhaps I may say to begin with that I do not regard it as a very serious offence to have been attacked in my absence. Political eagerness should be hardly expected to consider such a circumstance. The somewhat kindred fact that the published report of my evidence, given in a lawsuit in Quebec city some eighteen months ago, was a garbled report, wherein important features were omitted altogether, I am ready as a newspaper man, to credit to lack of space rather than malicious intent.

Nothing to Conceal
 As to my subscription to the Conservatives in Quebec district in 1904, I have nothing to conceal. The amount subscribed was \$4,000 for a contract for literature, \$1,381 for expenses during the year in the city of Quebec, \$250 for each rural constituency for preliminary expenses, \$300 for the campaign in each rural constituency, and \$4,000 for each of the Quebec city constituencies. The ridiculous smallness of the total amount will be a reply to those who see anything suspicious in the affair. At the trial in question prominent Liberals, cognizant of my testimony, smiled at the amount saying it was very small and added that the idea of carrying elections in the district on such sums was amusing.

The explanation of how I came to give these sums is very simple. I was deeply interested in the elections, as all the world knew; and when asked by the party managers how the immediate necessities of the campaign would be met, as the subscriptions might come in tardily, I promised to make advances against these expected contributions. When the time came for the contributions to materialize, they were not forthcoming; but I kept my promise in advancing the money. I consider the amount sent to the Quebec district, when used with the most rigid economy and absolute purity, to have been most reasonable, but to their credit, be it said it was all that the Quebec district managers asked when they sent in their estimates.

If they had asked more I would have sent it up to a reasonable amount.

Defends Borden
 When Mr. Borden asked more I would have sent it up to a reasonable amount.

When Mr. Borden wrote me that funds should be distributed only through committees acceptable to the local party friends, he had as far as I am aware, no personal knowledge of any such fund; and is not today, so far as I know, cognizant of any such fund, except, possibly, from hearsay. The fact that he took a natural way of putting his friends on their guard against possible mistakes and breaches of the election laws, has been seized upon as a text for his condemnation; but I scarcely think that his action will be so regarded by fair minded men.

In thus contributing financial assistance to the public cause in which I believe, I was only following the policy I have accepted and lived up to for a third of a century. For 33 years, the Star has taken a keen aggressive interest in municipal, provincial and federal elections, and has always endeavored to make its views more effective by helping to finance the campaigns which represented them. When the city of Montreal was being robbed by selling franchises for a song, by expropriation schemes, and contract grabbing schemes, the Star fought the derelict aldermen at the polls, and contributed to the full extent of its power to the driving of three-fourths of them into private life. These campaigns were expensive and the Star contributed three-fourths of the money necessary in many constituencies to carry them through. I have always believed it to be my duty as a citizen to bear some of the electoral burdens which in my papers I was constantly urging others to carry. When I called upon my neighbors to help elect honest aldermen to the city council, I thought that I should do my best as a citizen to take my own advice and help personally and financially to secure their election.

When successive provincial governments were shown to have been guilty of exploiting the public treasury for party advantage, the Star took up the cudgels, first against the Conservatives and then against the Liberals who were equally guilty; and the Star subscribed liberally to the funds for carrying on this work.

Protection
 In 1871, the Star took up the question of protection for Canadian in-

dustries, being the first of the Canadian dailies to do so; and hammered away at it persistently. Seven years later Sir John Macdonald came out for a National policy. In the campaigns of 1878, 1882, 1887 and 1891, this question was to the fore. The Star supported the party of protection in its columns and by generous contributions to its funds. In 1896 the Conservative party showed signs of having been too long in office, and the Star was much inclined to hold that it was time for a change, until it became all too clear that the Liberal party was bent on getting from the country a mandate to destroy the National Policy. That effort the Star could not assist; and so it again gave its adhesion to the Conservative cause and aided the party financially.

The Liberals came into power, but they did not tear down the National Policy. Still, there was a feeling that they were but hiding their time and the question of protection was kept to the front as an issue, both by the uncertainty as to the Liberal future and by the insistence of the Conservative opposition. This gave the Star no choice, but to stand by the National Policy party, and to back its opinions by financial aid. On all these occasions, I need hardly say that the Star's contributions were specifically given on the understanding that they were to be used for legitimate expenses; and, in many cases, they were devoted to the prevention of illegal acts by the other party. As for the National Policy it now appears to have disappeared from politics as a live issue. Faith in the perspicacity of the Liberals is growing, and few now think they will venture to abandon protection. Of course the National Policy has never been carried out to the full, as those of us who aided in its initiation had hoped. The share of the workingmen in its benefits has never been carefully safeguarded; and this may easily become a question of the future. As for the policy itself, if it were again in jeopardy, I would do precisely as I did in the past—support it with every influence of which I might be possessed. It is the only safeguard against annexation; and when its blessings are fairly shared with the working man, it will constitute one of the surest guarantees of a contented Canada within the empire.

Not in Accord with the Parties
 Today the Star is not in accord with either of the two political parties, but in reflecting upon this it must be borne in mind that the Star gives its support to measures rather than to men, and it regards the present policies of the two parties as unworthy of their best traditions and insufficient for the needs of the country.

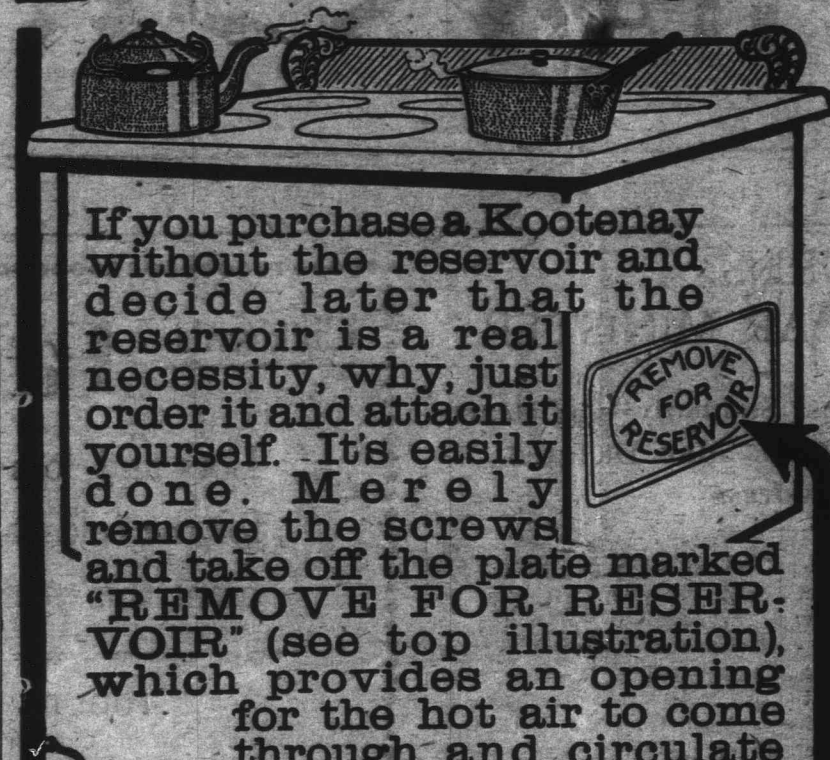
I happen to be the owner of newspapers with vast interests in every province in the Dominion, more widely dispersed than any bank or industrial concern in existence. So long as I consider myself free to aid whichever party has, in my opinion, the policy best adapted to the needs of the country; but it will always be contributed for legitimate purposes and to suppress illegitimate ones. Nor shall I be ashamed to have these contributions come to light. Rather I would favor a law compelling all election contributions to be made publicly with the names of the givers attached.

As to Mr. Blair's resignation. I had not seen Mr. Blair for eleven months before the election, or for five months afterwards, and then only he casually meeting him on the street. When I did meet him, there was no discussion about resigning. The first knowledge I had of Mr. Blair having resigned was when I saw a statement of the fact over his own signature. There has come into my possession documentary evidence to prove this, and there is written proof that Mr. Borden had nothing, even remotely, to do with the resignation. These are accessible to those who may investigate charges.

Purchase La Presse
 The purchase of La Presse was a business transaction on a commercial basis, with which Mr. Borden had no connection whatever, directly or indirectly. The owner was willing to sell on a commercial basis, and exhibited his balance sheets, which fully justified the purchase on a ten per cent. dividend prospect. The negotiations for the purchase of La Presse, according to documentary evidence in my possession, commenced in the spring of 1903, and were consummated in the fall of 1904. That a man happens to own a newspaper, and through illness or other good reason, wishes to dispose of it, is surely not an extraordinary state of affairs. That he should accept the highest offer amongst a number for the property can scarcely be ranked as an inhuman act.

As to the charge that there was an attempt to purchase Liberal candidates, to bribe them to desert their party, or anything of that nature, in regard to them, it is, as far as I am concerned, and as far as my knowledge extends, without any basis whatever, and I invite, in the public interest, any member of parliament, or defeated candidate, to substantiate at any such charge.

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There has come into my possession documentary evidence of an indisputable character, proving that Mr. Borden had no connection whatever with the Blair resignation, and had no knowledge of it, although he has been otherwise charged by guessing newspapers.

It is creance is given to what is written with such an appearance of knowledge in certain newspapers about plots, conspiracies and other dark doings, by all means have an investigation into all these matters. Although I intended going abroad very shortly, I will remain in Canada, or within easy call, and will be ready at any time during the next four months to give evidence before any impartial tribunal appointed to enquire into the charges referred to and anything of a kindred nature.

Yours,
 HUGH GRAHAM.
 Montreal, Oct. 21.

MR. BORDEN'S CHALLENGE
 Winnipeg, Oct. 28.—The Walker

MOOSOMIN CITIZENS HONOR CHIEF JUSTICE

Farewell Address to Head of Judiciary who Moves to Regina after 20 Years' Residence --- His Touching Words in Reply

Chief Justice Wetmore has come to Regina to take up his permanent residence with his son, J. A. Wetmore, manager of the Imperial Bank. The chief justice has been a resident of Moosomin for twenty years and on leaving there recently he was presented with the following address by Mayor Ness on behalf of the citizens at a mass function.

The Address
 To the Hon. E. L. Wetmore, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan.
 We have asked you to be present this evening at this gathering, which represents the town and district of Moosomin to express to you our profound regret that the exigencies of public life, which have called you to a high position of honor and usefulness in our province, necessitate your departure from our midst.

The occasion of your departure is one which we cannot allow to pass without striving to express to you, in however inadequate a way, the very high regard in which you have been held by all classes of the community during the many years of your residence among us. As a citizen you have for twenty years borne your part in those changing experiences, which are incident to the development of a new land. You have shared with us the hardships of pioneer life. You have labored willingly for the welfare of the community. You have manifested an active and hearty interest in all manner of recreations and manly sport. And as a

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