

THE FREE PRESS CHANGE.

Mr. Molynaux St. John Appointed Editor-in-Chief.

(From Tribune, Sept 25th.)

On Saturday evening it became known that at a meeting held during the afternoon Mr. St. John had been appointed editor in place of Mr. Luxton. Mr. St. John admitted the fact to his friends, and the Free Press is now already under his management. He left for Montreal on Saturday night's train. The announcement made in Saturday's TRIBUNE was the sole topic of conversation on the streets and in the rotundas of the hotels. Knots were to be seen gathered here and there discussing the all absorbing theme and speculating as to what would come next. The general impression was that Mr. Luxton would make some sort of a legal fight to regain control of the 800 shares of stock held by him until Friday. It is felt that what has already occurred is but the beginning of a series of surprises that may be expected in connection with the matter.

Mr. Luxton's name has been removed from the editorial page of the Free Press.

MR. LUXTON'S EXPULSION.

A Letter From the Ex-Editor-in-Chief. Himself.

An Interesting Story of Inside Free Press Affairs—St. John is Editor.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

SIR,—From whatever source you got your information, of which I am entirely ignorant, the report you gave on Saturday of my expulsion from the Free Press is almost strictly accurate, but it is not the whole story, nor am I now going to inflict that upon your readers; indeed I could not if I would, for the narrative would make a considerable volume. Perhaps, however, you will be generous enough to give me space for a few lines in addition to those you have already published upon the matter in question, so that pending a complete expose,

which will come in due time, the public may have something of a correct idea of what to expect. I shall, therefore, make only a few rather bald but sweeping statements, which, when future occasion renders practicable, I shall support by minute particulars.

For twenty-one years my whole effort has been devoted to the up-building of the Free Press, which I had determined to accomplish by doing right to the Northwest, according to my best judgment, no matter what should intervene, or perish in the attempt.

In this pursuit what you have related came to pass with parties connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway; and it is exactly as you say, I had the assurance that I was to be left absolutely to myself as to the policy of the paper. The deal with them was purely of a legitimate business character—so, at least, I understood it, or it would not have been consummated. At the time, the Free Press was opposing the Provincial Government as strongly as it has ever opposed it since, and so was the Canadian Pacific Railway, and no abatement was even suggested.

Notwithstanding the assurance that I alone was to control the editorial policy of the paper, when the Dominion general elections came on, as you mention, the parties referred to undertook to dictate the course the Free Press should pursue; and that was one which would certainly have defeated the end aimed at, and, as well, have properly reduced the paper to a position beneath public contempt. I declined to accept the dictation; but, inasmuch, as my views as to what was ultimately desirable in respect to the elections were not very wide of those of the would-be dictators, the Free Press, in pursuing its own course, escaped any manifestation of displeasure from that quarter.

Shortly after, the Provincial Government granted a bonus of some \$160,000 to the Canadian Pacific Railway for the Souris extension; and then began the friendship of the C. P. R. for the Government, which has been ever since manifested. Subsequently, some \$70,000 has been given that company as a provincial bonus on the Pipestone extension; and what is presently under consideration is a bonus for a Dauphin extension. Beyond these are the considerations for which the C. P. R. converted its hostility to the Local Government into friendship; and besides, all the circumstances, with which I am painfully familiar, convince me that it is part of the arrangement that the Free Press shall be brought into line with the Government. To that position, under my management,