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SUN PRINTING COMPANY.

ALFRED MARKHAM,
Manager.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 22, 1900

THE YORK PROTEST.

The Telegraph draws on a singularly fruitful imagination when it says that the Sun finds fault with Dr. McLeod for protesting Mr. Gibson's election. On the contrary, the Sun has insisted that Dr. McLeod and the York conservatives have acted within their rights. If the Telegraph wants a more explicit statement, we say now that the course taken in York is justifiable. Undoubtedly Dr. McLeod received a large majority of the freely cast and unpurchased votes in the county. His protest may put the two parties to some inconvenience elsewhere, but that may not prevent it from serving an important public purpose. The Telegraph seems to think that Mr. Foster was able to influence Dr. McLeod to leave the York election unprotected, and that his failure to prevent the protest indicates a willingness to have the war of protests go on. So far as the Sun knows, it was not in the power of Mr. Foster or any one else to overrule the determination to which the York committee had arrived. If such supreme power had existed, it would hardly have been far to take away by any arbitrary outside power the right of protest from the electors to whom parliament has given it.

Last week Mr. Powell suggested that the conservative party should undertake the great work of establishing an honest ballot in this Dominion. If the result of the New Brunswick protests should be the vacating of ten seats in this province, an opportunity would be afforded for the party to practice Mr. Powell's precepts. The conservatives could then fight each constituency as Dr. McLeod is believed to have contested York, and if they should be beaten in most of the following contests, as might well happen, they could again appeal to the courts under the controverted elections act, and the Weldon act, securing the disqualification of the bribed and the bribers, and applying all processes civil and criminal to the work in hand.

FREE SPEECH.

At a meeting of the Canadian Temperance League today a strong resolution was passed condemning the suggestion of Hon. A. G. Jones, that a plot be given each man of the returning contingent on arrival at Halifax in place of immediate President Robertson said in view of the position of Wolsey and Roberts on this question it was difficult to understand the Jones proposition. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Governor Jones and the minister of militia.

The resolution and language as quoted do not appear to be offensive, and reasonable persons, whether they are abstainers or not, will concede both to the League and the Governor the right of free speech. Yet the Halifax Chronicle, with this despatch before it, furiously declares that the resolution and language "are sheer ignorant impertinence." It wants to know whether "the governor of this province is not likely to be at least as good as, as intelligent, and enlightened a man as any members of this insolent, self-righteous and ill-mannered league." The government organ proceeds to say that one half the adult male population of Canada takes an occasional glass of beer, wine or spirits, and adds: "They are not to be deterred from so doing by the impudent rappings and threatnings of those who are of a different way of thinking. The cause of temperance is not to be promoted by such rappings and threatnings." After a further reference to the "insolent absurdity" of the Toronto resolution the Chronicle produces its ultimatum. "We have had quite enough of snivelling, disgusting hypocrisy in this country on this subject," and declares that when "blackmailers, clerical and lay," publish impudent bulldozing resolutions "it is high time for a summary reform."

This is a rather violent attempt to suppress free speech. Even a preacher has the right to object to the offer of beer to the soldiers of the country at a public reception. If the objection were frivolous, which many people as practical as the editor of the Chronicle will not admit, it seems to be quite lawful to make it.

TENDERS FOR STEEL BRIDGES.

The local government has called for tenders for four steel bridges about to be constructed, the whole comprising seven spans, and requiring nearly 300,000 pounds of metal. If this is a genuine offer of the work to competition, the government of Mr. Tweedie, with Mr. Labllois as chief commissioner, has reversed the policy of the Emmerson government, of which Mr. Emmerson was chief commissioner. Unfortunately for themselves, Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Labllois were both members of the government which was responsible for the two price bridge scandals. They not only aided in committing the offence, but composed part of the majority which blocked the Hazen inquiry as far as that was possible, and finally voted down the motion condemning the transaction. All the members and supporters of the government now in the house have made themselves responsible for the bridge scandals of the past.

Yet it would appear that all are not willing to have the offences repeated. The ministers who called upon their majority to vote down the proposition that the bridge contracts should be let by tender have issued a call for tenders. The men who condemned and assailed Mr. Hazen and his bridge policy have adopted that policy. At least they profess to do so. It is fair to assume that the competition invited is honest and fair competition. Otherwise the Tweedie government is guilty of the same offence as the Emmerson government, with duplicity and bad faith added.

Possibly the premier or the chief commissioner will explain why the policy of private contract and special prices without competition has been given up. In the absence of such explanation two explanations suggest themselves. One is that the retirement of Mr. Emmerson has diminished the government interest in the Record Company and its fortunes. This view of the case would be more creditable to Mr. Emmerson than creditable to his late colleagues, and at the present stage of proceedings another and more complimentary explanation is entitled to the preference.

The exposure made by Mr. Hazen last session produced a strong impression on the country and on the fair minded members. Even some of the ministers who had accepted without question the statement of the late head of the department, were taken by surprise when they found that the province had undoubtedly been paying on the average at least double the price for bridges that they would have cost in the open market. Probably some members, certainly some supporters of the government were astonished and ashamed when the departmental methods were exposed, and it was found that the business was carried on without checks, or audit, and with the most reckless disregard of business principles or methods. There is reason to believe that while the majority voted the ministers through, some of the members caused the heads of the departments to understand that they did not propose to be dragged through the mire again in that fashion. The verdict was "not guilty, but don't do it again."

We prefer to believe that the call for tenders is genuine, and that it is the result of a serious purpose to give up some of the iniquities which have been practiced and condoned in the past. This suggestion may prove to be doing the government more than justice, but the ministers will not condemn the Sun for that. Whatever may be the immediate cause of the change of policy, Mr. Hazen laid the foundations for it by his charges and the evidence he produced in support of them. It was a great thing to have the facts established as these were. A crime exposed is already half punished. When this is done, and the case is as bad as the bridge scandal was, the beginning of the end has come. Government majorities in the legislature or at the polls may serve a temporary purpose, and protect the guilty parties from immediate punishment. But after what happened last winter, the bridge scandals could not go on, unless a new method of concealment were devised. What we have now is either an end of this particular scandal or else a new scheme to conceal the truth.

THE COLDBROOK MILL.

The destruction of the Coldbrook Rolling Mill is an unfortunate event. The owners, some of whom are working mechanics, lose a productive property on which they have recently made considerable outlay. The establishment gave employment to seventy or eighty men, including a large number of heads of families, and was therefore one of the more important industries in the neighborhood of St. John. For a third of a century and more this establishment has been in existence, most of the time in extensive operation. It has had many owners and experienced various vicissitudes of fortune. The building was a picturesque landmark which will be missed, even though a new one should be built in its place. Within its black walls men

have earned some millions of dollars and many millions have been received for its products. Of late the machinery has been worked to its fullest capacity, much of the time night and day, and the loss of employment at this season of the year will make an unpleasant Christmas for some of the men.

Mr. Blake's acceptance of the position of chairman of committees has elements of interest. The position is like that of our deputy speaker. It is an interesting fact that it is given to an opposition member. The other significant feature is that Mr. Blake in accepting it departs from the custom of the Irish party not to take office or place themselves in any position in the gift of the government or of the majority in parliament. It will be Mr. Blake's duty to rebuke his fellow Home Rulers if they talk in the committee of the whole as they talked the other day in convention.

Speaking at the banquet to Mr. Hays the other day, the minister of agriculture declared that the channel of the St. Lawrence must be improved. His own eyes had been opened to the necessity of it when he found that the St. Lawrence insurance so high that it was cheaper to ship hay from St. John or Halifax to Cape Town than to ship it from Montreal. We should say that those calamities might befall the British government than the necessity of shipping Canadian hay to Cape Town from St. John. This port would seem to be geographically the proper point of shipment.

The Telegraph thinks the Sun ought to admit that the reduced winter export business of St. John this year is due to the poor crop of the west. But it happens somewhat that the other winter port of Portland has already sent away twenty ships as compared with twelve last year, while the grain export has increased from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 bushels.

The St. John Globe is not very enthusiastic over Mr. Blair's latest project for the extension of the Intercolonial to Georgian Bay. Senator Ellis may find the question a live one before long. Is he quite sure that the minister has not already agreed to buy somebody's railway?

The Halifax Chronicle, which devoted a column and a half leader on Tuesday to violent abuse of the Canadian Temperance League, awarded the same space on Wednesday to equally violent praise of Mr. Tarte.

REV. DR. GATES.

The Alliance Expresses its Regret at His Departure.

The committee appointed by the Evangelical Alliance to draw up a suitable resolution to be presented to Rev. Dr. Gates, has forwarded the following to him:

Resolved, That this Alliance cannot permit the Rev. Dr. Gates to sever his connection with it and remove from the city without recording its hearty appreciation of the many qualities which have endeared him to its members and made him one of our most useful and influential citizens.

During the fifteen years of his pastorate of the German Street Baptist church he has been an active member of the Alliance. He has been regular in attendance at its sessions and his wisdom has enriched its counsels. In all its works he has taken a prominent and leading part.

Every good movement has received from him hearty and intelligent advocacy. His praise is in all the churches. As a teacher, preacher and broad minded public man his name is a tower of strength.

In parting with him the Alliance prays that the blessing of our Heavenly Father may abundantly rest upon him and Mrs. Gates in the new field of labor to which they shortly remove.

S. F. FOTHERINGHAM,
GEORGE STEEL.

REV. DR. MACKENZIE RESIGNS HIS CHARGE.

(St. Stephen Courier.)

The Presbyterian congregation in St. Stephen is about to lose its able and popular pastor, Rev. Dr. MacKenzie having tendered his resignation. He is to preach his farewell sermon of Sunday evening next. The field of his future labors is not yet known. But the best wishes of a large circle of friends accompany Dr. MacKenzie and his wife wherever they may go.

It may be remembered that Dr. MacKenzie announced his resignation some four years ago, having had the offer of a charge with most congenial work. He was, however, not able to carry out his wishes, owing to the fact that the Presbyterian congregation in St. Stephen urged him to recall his resignation, alleging that his withdrawal would cripple their church for years, if not ruin it. Dr. MacKenzie has at present two offers, thus making the sixth opportunity he has had of securing another charge since coming into our town. In 1895 he was offered the charge of a congregation on the Pacific coast, with a salary of \$2,800. This offer, also, he declined. Dr. MacKenzie has been pastor of the Presbyterian church over six years.

SIGNS OF INSANITY.

Fribley-Mrs. Fribley isn't exactly right, is she? Slightly deranged mentally, I should say.

Gibley-Nonsense! What makes you think so?

Fribley-I heard her admit that another woman looked well in a new bonnet.—Ohio State Journal.

INTERESTING LAW SUIT.

Two Young Women Who Smuggled Themselves into a Home.

(St. Andrews Beacon, 20th.)

When the case of Barker v. Fenton was called in the Charlotte circuit court last week, there were few who knew of the interesting features it would disclose. The action was one brought by Mrs. Jane T. Barker of St. Stephen, widow of the late Charles O. Barker, at one time a prosperous merchant in that town, to recover possession of a house and lands occupied by Misses Annie and Nellie Fenton. The defendants claimed that the property was theirs. They had a double claim upon it. First, they having won it through smuggling for the deceased merchant, and second, they had been twenty-two or more years ago, sworn that she had done a great deal of smuggling for her employer, and as a reward for her success in this direction, Mr. Barker had presented her and her sister with the title house they had occupied ever since. The witness described her smuggling operations with perfect candor. On one occasion, she said, Mr. Barker went to Boston and purchased 1200 worth of soft hats and handkerchiefs, shipped to him by express, and before his return, she had transferred all the goods by underground route from the Yankee to the British side. She had often carried, she said, as many as three dozen hats over at a trip. She had never asked for any special compensation for this hazardous work, but Mr. Barker had recognized it by giving the house. He had promised a deed of it to them whenever they wanted it, but they had never asked for it, and when Mr. Barker died they were without any legal document to show their title to it. During the trial it leaked out that Mr. Barker had exercised some ownership privileges over the property up to the time of his death, such as paying taxes on it, and also paying insurance premiums on the house. Against this the Misses Fenton swore that they had paid Mr. Barker for having the roof of the house shingled a few years ago. They would scarcely have dared to had they not regarded the house as theirs, and Mr. Barker, they argued, would not have accepted it had he not recognized their claim thereto.

The smuggling evidence came as a surprise to the plaintiff and her lawyers. No mention of it had been made in the defendant's pleadings, and Mrs. Barker was not aware that such testimony could or would be presented.

When the trial was finished, Judge Hannington submitted a series of questions to the jury to answer. The consideration of these questions occupied about half an hour's time. They were answered as follows:

1. Q. Did the late Charles O. Barker give the premises in question to the defendants as their own in the spring of 1878, as they state he did? Ans. Yes.

2. Q. Did the defendants in May, 1878, move into and occupy the premises, given them by Mr. Barker? Ans. Yes.

3. Q. Have the defendants ever since the spring of 1878 had the open, continuous, exclusive and uninterrupted possession of the premises in question, claiming the same as their own? Ans. Yes.

4. Q. Did the defendants pay rent to the said Barker for the said premises? Ans. No.

5. Q. Had the late Chas. O. Barker possession of the premises in dispute now claimed by the defendants since the spring of 1878? Ans. No.

6. Q. If you find he had such possession then when had he possession, and for how long? Not answered.

7. Q. Was the shingling and other job of work done by Barker or his men on the premises? Ans. Yes.

8. Q. Did the late Mr. Barker decline a banquet in Halifax on the ground that he and the men wanted to get home early. This was the reason why the committee had voted for the calling of a public meeting, but he said that from further information received from the men his opinion had somewhat changed, and he doubted whether any further action in that matter could be taken.

Ald. McGoldrick spoke also of the minister of militia's statement to Col. McLean, but stated he did not think the men were coming here against their will. He regretted that the erroneous impression had been received abroad that St. John was unwilling to receive the men because there was no money in it. The Elder Dempster people had also taken a great deal upon themselves in stating that St. John could not properly accommodate the transport. This was untrue, as we have ample accommodation. The story had also been circulated that the mayor and common council did not want the men here. This was absolutely false, as the council and citizens were prepared to give a good reception. A first-class place for a banquet had been obtained and St. John was prepared to give the returning boys a royal entertainment, which Col. Otter and his men would gladly accept and greatly appreciate. He thought the committee should be advised to continue its preparations.

The mayor announced that the invitation which Col. Otter had refused was not from the mayor of Halifax, but from Col. White and the officers of the garrison.

Dr. James Christie thought that if Col. Otter and his men were coming here against their will, the minister of militia would have communicated with the mayor and council to that effect. As affairs stood now, we should go ahead and arrange for a grand reception.

Mr. Robinson's notion was then put and carried unanimously.

The mayor stated that the city had never sent any special request to the militia department to have the men brought here, so that if they were sent to St. John against their will they could not blame the citizens, whose manifest cause was to do nothing except to receive them when they came in the best manner possible. It was not proper for the city to make any motion to give the impression outside

CITIZENS MEET.

And Instruct Committee to proceed with the Reception for the Troops.

The Boys on the Lake Champlain Will be Royally Entertained at Canada's Winter Port.

According to announcement in the morning press, a meeting of citizens was held in the mayor's office Wednesday afternoon. His worship presided, and announced that the meeting had been called in pursuance of a resolution passed by the citizens' committee the previous night. He said the subject to be considered was the matter of bringing the Roslyn Castle here; also other affairs in connection with the reception of Colonel Otter and his men. He read a letter from Col. McLean, mentioning the fact that some of the men and freight of the Lake Champlain were to be landed in Halifax, and that while the citizens of St. John were prepared to receive the men, they did not want them brought here against their wishes. Col. Otter had refused a banquet in Halifax, and Lt. Col. McLean thought that the minister of militia should be requested to inform Col. Otter that if he and his men were anxious to go to their homes by rail from Halifax, that St. John did not wish them brought here against their will.

In discussing this, his worship said that he was in possession of information that Col. Otter and his men would be delighted to come to St. John. It was also known that the ship had been ordered here, and the only dignified position the city could take would be to proceed to give them a hearty welcome. The Roslyn Castle would have on board about 800 men, and if objectors stated that there would be any difficulty in handling 800 men, how did they intend to accommodate 800? Lt. Col. Skinner said that at the meeting the evening previous after it had been decided to entertain the men at the high school, Col. McLean had introduced a resolution advocating communication with the minister of militia to the effect that if Col. Otter had any objection toward coming to St. John, he should not be forced to do so. The committee thought that this went beyond their jurisdiction, so this public meeting had been called. He thought that for the credit of the city no action should be taken in this matter unless explicit intimation was received from Col. Otter of his unwillingness to come here.

Edward Sears said that the reception committee had investigated the different places for a dinner and could find no place where they could be fittingly entertained in a body.

A. O. Skinner here arose to a point of order, saying that this had been all discussed before the citizens' committee, which had decided otherwise. Mr. Sears claimed the right to say what he pleased in a public meeting, and stated that as there was no motion before the house, no point of order was rightly taken. His worship stated the speaker had no right to take up the time of the meeting unless he had a resolution to propose, and Mr. Sears said that if this was to be a gag meeting, and he was only allowed to say what others thought, he should say he would not speak at all, and he thereupon took his seat.

LEB. Robinson moved that the committee already appointed be requested to proceed with their arrangements for the reception.

Lt. Col. Markham told of Lt. Col. McLean's interview with the minister of militia, in which Dr. Borden had said that the men were coming here only in response to the insistence of St. John, after Col. Otter had declined a banquet in Halifax on the ground that he and the men wanted to get home early. This was the reason why the committee had voted for the calling of a public meeting, but he said that from further information received from the men his opinion had somewhat changed, and he doubted whether any further action in that matter could be taken.

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that Col. Otter and his men did not wish to come here.

With reference to obtaining the arrival of the Roslyn Castle at St. John, Ald. Macneil thought that this matter should be left entirely with the militia department, as the other had been. No request had gone from any city in Canada to have the men brought to it, and St. John should not interfere with the militia department in this instance. If the government should have them landed here, St. John would welcome them as soldiers of the Queen should be welcomed, and they will receive the men coming on the Lake Champlain in the same manner.

Another meeting of the general committee of the citizens was held in City Hall last evening. His worship Mayor Daniel presided. After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting it was decided that the mayor should arrange with English Paters regarding the erection of a barricade outside the Pettinell wharf to prevent the crowding of spectators at the landing of the troops.

Alderman McGoldrick advocated the placing of guards at the entrances and exits of the hall, by ticket.

The question of who shall be admitted will be settled at the meeting tonight.

It was moved by Edward Sears that badges be provided for the members of the committee—Carried.

Mr. Sears and Ald. Caldwell were appointed a committee to procure the badges.

D. A. Jack reported for the committee appointed to procure menu cards. The design they had ordered were to cost \$15 each, and after considerable discussion it was decided to procure 600 of these. The card, as proposed, will be a valuable souvenir for those present at the dinner. It will be in the form of a booklet, containing beside the bill of fare and toast list, appropriate views of the city and vicinity.

The matter of the issuing of invitations to the banquet elicited considerable discussion, and it was decided to invite beside the troops the Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor of Halifax, the Governor, the Mayor of St. John, the Quartermaster General, the D. O. C., the commanding officers of the St. John regiments, and the deputy mayor. It was further decided to wait until the arrival of the steamer at Halifax, when the exact number of men coming here could be ascertained before issuing any further invitations.

Col. Armstrong, as the chairman of the caterers' committee, presented the tenders from the Dufferin and Royal hotels. The bills offered by both were practically the same and Messrs. Doherty & Raymond tendered at the rate of \$2.00 per plate for 325 officers and men, additional guests at the same rate, the caterers to provide all the necessary requirements and help with the exception of waiters. Mr. McCaffrey tendered at the rate of \$2.00 per plate, his bill not to exceed \$650.

Considerable discussion followed in favor of the offer of one hotel or the other, without arrival at any decision, and it was decided that the matter be referred back to the committee, to which Alderman White was added, with power to act.

Lt. Col. McLean, for the committee appointed to obtain accommodation for the men in case of a longer stay than for the dinner, reported that the different hotels had offered their accommodations free and meals at the usual charge.

D. A. Jack moved that cigars be provided at the banquet, the choice being left to the catering committee. Carried.

The meeting here adjourned until eight o'clock this evening.

The general committee of the citizens sat again in City Hall last evening. There were present: Mayor Daniel, Secretary A. O. Skinner, Aldermen Armstrong, Hillyard, McKinnon, McGoldrick, White and Millidge, D. J. Purdy, M. P. P., Lt. Col. Markham, George Blake, Senator Ellis and Edw. Sears.

The mayor presented a telegram from the deputy minister of militia, and his answer, as follows:

To the Mayor of St. John:

No information yet. What do you intend to do for reception troops. Strong pressure being made to have them land at Halifax.

L. F. PINAULT,
Lieut. Col.

His worship replied: If troops land here, city of St. John is prepared to give them a rousing reception, including banquet. Will send you further details if necessary.

J. W. DANIEL,
Mayor.

PRESBYTERY OF MIRAMICHI.

The Presbytery of Miramichi met at Loggieville, near Chatham, last Monday evening, to induct Rev. A. W. Lewis, B. D., to the Presbyterian church. Rev. D. Henderson, B. Sc., presided and inducted, Rev. H. H. Reid, B. L., preached the sermon, Rev. A. F. Carr, M. A., addressed the minister, and Rev. J. M. MacLean, B. A., the people.

Mr. Lewis' induction took place under auspicious circumstances and in the presence of a large congregation, many being present from St. Andrew's church, Chatham, with which Loggieville was connected till organized as an independent congregation five years ago.

Rev. Mr. Henderson, in a graceful speech, presented Rev. Mr. Lewis, at the close of the induction service, with a purse of money, in the name and on behalf of the ladies of the congregation of Loggieville.

On Tuesday the presbytery met again, at St. James church, Newcastle, for the transaction of routine business.



We give this beautiful Solid Sterling Silver Bracelet, with hallmarked key, for nothing but \$1.00. It is a beautiful, solid, and durable bracelet, and is a great gift for any one. It is a beautiful, solid, and durable bracelet, and is a great gift for any one. It is a beautiful, solid, and durable bracelet, and is a great gift for any one.

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