

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, June 20, 1914.

AN INTERESTING SITUATION

The Standard has no desire to attempt to smother by one blot the snowy whiteness of the cloaks of purity with which the Telegraph and Times have sought to enwrap themselves during the progress of the Royal Commission investigating the Dugal charges. Such raiment is so completely new to these newspapers that it seems almost a pity to spoil the effect, which, to say the least, is novel, but while they are thundering their invectives about the heads of all and sundry whose names have been introduced or connected with the revelations now being unfolded, it appears that if they so desired they, or men very close to them, had it in their power to expose, and possibly stop, the activities of Mr. Berry long ago.

Those who have followed the enquiry closely cannot have failed to notice that on at least two occasions has the name of Mr. John E. Moore been mentioned by witnesses. On Wednesday morning it was introduced by Mr. Walter Stevens, manager of the Dominion Pulp and Paper Company, and from the Times' report of his evidence we reproduce the following relating to payments made at Mr. Berry's request, the questions being asked by Mr. Carvell.

Q—"How did you do it?" meaning, how did witness pay?

A—"I went to the bank and got a certified cheque payable to John E. Moore of St. John."

Q—"Why to him?"

A—"Mr. Berry said to do so."

Yesterday morning, when Senator Jones was on the stand, there was some interesting testimony regarding Mr. John E. Moore, and, strange to say, it also had to do with arrangements for payment of this "shameful rake-off," to once more quote the organs of purity. Mr. Jones was being asked regarding payments by his company to Mr. Berry's fund, and again the questions were asked by Mr. Carvell. The following interesting evidence is taken from the Times' report last evening.

Q—"Tell about the last call."

A—"The last time we paid, we paid by cheque."

Q—"Was the cheque payable to Mr. Berry?"

A—"No. To John E. Moore."

Q—"Was it endorsed by John E. Moore?"

A—"Yes."

Q—"Tell the circumstances."

A—"Mr. Berry requested that the payment be made in cash to Mr. Ted. I said I would if he would give a voucher which he refused to do. He asked if I would give a cheque to Mr. Moore. I said I would. Later I gave the cheque to Mr. Moore in Mr. Berry's presence. Mr. Moore endorsed it and handed it to Mr. Berry."

Q—"What was the amount of the cheque?"

A—"£3,225."

Q—"And the date?"

A—"October 4, 1913."

From the evidence of Mr. Stevens, it appears that witness was told by Mr. Berry to get a cheque payable to Mr. Moore. Would Mr. Berry have done this if he had any reason to believe that Mr. Moore would have been displeased by his action. Unless there was an understanding with Mr. Moore it was an unwarranted liberty.

On the second occasion Mr. Moore himself endorsed the cheque and handed it to Mr. Berry. Now, Mr. Moore is a lumber dealer, and were it not for certain other facts regarding his business interests, the introduction of his name at this enquiry would occasion no more comment than would that of any other lumberman. But there are circumstances in Mr. Moore's case which entitle him to special consideration.

In the list of company directorates, etc., published in McAlpine's St. John Directory for the year 1913, appears the following interesting information:

"The Telegraph Publishing Co.—E. W. McCready, president; A. P. Barnhill, secretary; George McAvity, John E. Moore, A. M. Belding, directors."

"The Evening Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.—E. W. McCready, president; A. P. Barnhill, secretary; George McAvity, John E. Moore, A. M. Belding, directors."

It is evident that Mr. Berry in his dealings with Mr. Moore's cheques, or in Mr. Moore's presence, recognized in that gentleman only a lumberman, and not a director of, not one but both, the would-be organs of purity. From the evidence alone it would appear that Mr. Moore knew months ago that Mr. Berry was collecting a "reptile fund" from the lumbermen, but it does not appear that he used his influence with the Telegraph and Times to bring about an exposure of this awful wrong. If it is divulged later that he did so, The Standard will willingly give full publicity to that fact. As, however, there is nothing to that effect at present it is reasonable to wonder if the Telegraph and Times' high moral stand has been taken with the full approval of at least one of their directors. And, assuming the integrity of those companies again, it is noticed that there are other names

where which the public will find it difficult to entirely dissociate from the idea of a campaign fund. The situation is interesting to say the least. It is clearly up to the organs of purity to explain.

CONCERNING "COLLECTIONS."

The newspapers supporting Mr. Carvell and Mr. Dugal in the charge against Hon. J. K. Fleming, would be very willing to have the public forget the significant statement made by Mr. Allan Ritchie that the lumbermen had contributed to campaign funds under the regime of governments other than that now in power. The Times endeavors to put forward the contention that the general question of campaign funds has nothing to do with the present case. In a labored editorial, chiefly devoted to an attempt to show that never in the province of New Brunswick was there such a condition of wickedness as revealed when lumbermen swore they had made payments to Mr. Berry which they thought were for the purposes of a "campaign fund," the Times does not try to refute the statement that funds have been raised in the past but intimates that this occasion is different because only the lumbermen were called upon to contribute. If the statement of Mr. Ritchie is to be believed, and he made it under oath, it is not the first time it has been suggested to lumbermen that they might devote a portion of their wealth to advancing the interests of a political party. Even if Mr. Ritchie had not testified as he did, there must still be a very large number of people who have not forgotten the corrupt Northumberland deal when lumbermen of the North Shore were made parties to a particularly odious transaction by which the interests of the province were sacrificed on the altar of political ascendancy.

While some lumbermen, called to the stand by Mr. Carvell, have testified that they did pay money to Mr. Berry, or to Mr. Ted, or to Mr. Brankley, there has been absolutely no evidence to show that there was extortion, or threat, or promise of favor, to influence them in this direction. During the progress of the hearing Mr. Carvell has attempted with all his force, all his ingenuity, and all his legal knowledge, to adduce this fact, but he has signally failed. He has also failed to show that any payments were made before the lumber lands of the province were classified and the amount of bonus fixed, and a peculiar fact regarding the transaction is that most of the lumbermen who contributed to the fund were men whose holdings of Crown lands were classified at the very highest figure and who paid at this rate.

The Times claims that \$60,000 has been taken from the people of New Brunswick as the result of the alleged "campaign contributions." Yet, the accounts of the Crown Land Department show that its revenues were larger during the tenure of the present government than at any other time in provincial history. The area of Crown lands has not been increased, the cut of lumber is not larger, but the revenues received by the province have grown enormously. If all the contentions of the opposition newspapers are correct, and the fund collected for "campaign purposes" is as large as claimed, the question may well be asked, if an official holding office under the present administration collected, illegally, \$60,000, how much more did the gentlemen get who operated under former Liberal governments? Evidence to this effect would be interesting just now.

The Moncton Transcript, one of the most rabidly partisan Grit newspapers in the country, uses the following words in a "splash" heading to describe the proceedings at Thursday morning's session of the Dugal enquiry: "Linked, Linked, Linked, Shocking Exposure in the Dugal Enquiry—Sealer Berry's Pledges to Lumbermen Carried out by Premier Fleming—The 'Get Rich Quick' Premier, However Still Disavows any Knowledge of Transactions; but, to Borrow a Phrase from Premier Asquith, over the Water, 'Just Wait and See'—Evidence Indicates that about \$120,000 were Extorted from the Lumbermen by the Provincial Tories."

There is a story in circulation in Moncton to the effect that a bundle of Transcripts once fell off the wharf at Point du Chene and as a result all the fish were poisoned. We never before understood the significance of that story.

The Times finds fault with The Standard because this newspaper on Friday did not devote front page space to a report of Thursday morning's session of the hearing of the Dugal charges. To those of our readers who may think from the Times that The Standard's action was due to fear, we might point out that there was no ag-

sion of the Dugal enquiry on Thursday afternoon and, consequently, no evidence that had not already appeared in the evening newspapers. Thursday. The placing of news stories in a matter of newspaper routine and it is not the custom to devote front page space to news which has already appeared in other papers. For the solicitor editor of the Times we repeat the advice he himself gave to a correspondent who criticized his newspaper. He said, "It may be observed that there is a large field in this 'treacherous village' for the man who minds his own business."

The Times is utterly wrong when it says The Standard is worrying over the future of Mr. Carvell. The Standard has sufficient confidence in the good sense of the people of Carleton county to realize that if the chief of the "dark lantern brigade" ever again appeals to them they will see to it that he is placed in a position where he will cause worry to no one unless it be the newspapers which today support him.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Almost one-half of the city of St. John was reduced to ashes by the terrible conflagration which swept over the New Brunswick metropolis, 37 years ago today, June 20, 1877. The fire, of unknown origin, began in the neighborhood of the old Market Slip, but it was threatening a boiler factory when discovered, and an alarm was sounded. The engines soon arrived on the scene and the firemen, regular and volunteer, did everything within human power to stop the spread of the conflagration. Despite their best efforts, however, the fire raged for nine hours and devastated 200 acres, about two-thirds of the city. The property loss was estimated as high as \$27,000,000. More than 1,500 buildings, including ten churches, the City Hall, the post office, the customs house and about a score more public edifices of various kinds, several banks and hotels and hundreds of shops, factories and residences, were devoured by the flames. A gale was blowing, and this was responsible for the rapid spread of the fire, through business and residential districts and along the waterfront. All the wharves and warehouses, 200 in number, were wiped out, and the blaze reached many ships. Some of the vessels were towed out of the danger area, but many remained to the flames. Subscriptions for the relief of sufferers were raised in Canada, Britain and the States. The work of rebuilding the city was soon commenced and substantial stone and brick edifices replaced many of the old wooden landmarks. St. John continued to suffer from the conflagration for many years, however, and the census of 1881 showed a population of 26,127, compared with 28,800 a decade before.

THE HUMAN PROCESS'ON

MURPHY, CHIEF OF TAMMANY, FIFTY-SIX TODAY

These are lean and hungry days for the Tammany tiger. Aye, and lean and hungry days for the keepers and the trainers of the erstwhile fat feline. Such men, as Shakespeare tells us, are dangerous. So it is that Charles Francis Murphy, big chief of Tammany Hall, is now called upon to quell insurrections within the camp, as well as to plan the overthrow of the traitor, phantom enemy without. If Charles Francis Murphy is scared, however, the signs of his fear are not written upon his face, but on his tongue. The chief of the Tammany wigwag is able to give a most excellent imitation of a man who is satisfied and contented with himself and life, and the world, and affairs in general. He appears as one who should say, "I will in time receive the congratulations of his loyal followers on the happy occasion of his fifty-sixth birthday."

Charles Francis Murphy was born in New York on June 29, 1858. For further details of his career one turns to last autumn's files of The Voters' Weekly, the Canadian edition of the anti-Tammany forces, and finds the Tammany chieftain described as a "graduate of the 'Gas House Gang'—an ex-harbor policeman, street-car driver and saloon-keeper," and several other things past and present. After twenty-one years in politics and eleven years as leader of Tammany Hall, "says this biographer, Mr. Murphy is possessed of a private fortune which, his friends would declare, is more than \$2,000,000; is the owner of a palatial country house at Good Ground, L. I.; of a handsome city house in the heart of his old district; of seven automobiles, one for each day of the week; of stock in more corporations than he would care to have listed, and is operating under the names of other men a string of saloons."

The author describes the youthful Murphy as working as "handy man" in an east-side saloon, and later of his employment as a horse car driver by day, while he spent the evenings in building up a political machine. He was a shrewd one, was young Charley, for one of his first political moves, according to this biographer, was the organization of two baseball clubs, the Senators and the Sylviens, from the members of the Gas House Gang. The next and logical step in his political career was to buy a place of liquid refreshment, and by 1888 he had increased the number of his saloons to three. He also organized a local Tammany club, and his power came to be recognized as "The Hall." In 1892 he was made chairman of the Tammany Hall Democracy, and in 1902 he became the great chief of the most powerful municipal political body the world has ever known. At this point, says the anti-Tammany biographer, "he assembled a kennel of bulldogs, bought diamonds and automobiles and began to take on fish."

It is true that Mr. Murphy has accumulated more than his share of fat tissues, but his burly body still bears traces of the athlete. His face, clean-shaven as a priest's, is heavy and stolid, and expressive of a heavy, stolid, and unyielding character. Conversationally he is "very much to the Sphinx," as one of his friends has expressed it. A story is told of the Tammany chief in connection with a Fourth of July celebra-

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

We was eating supper last night, and pop sed, Mothir, I believe I sed something or uthir the uthir eaving about limiting myself, in the smoking line, to yun segar a day for a while. You did a hole lot moar than say something or uthir about it, sed ma. You expressly and positively sed that ou werent going to smook moar than wun segar a day. Perhaps I did, sed pop. No perhaps about it, sed ma. To bad, to bad, sed pop. Waits the matir, sed ma, do you repeat of yure resoaloshin awiredly. Sertly not, sed pop, wen I make a resoaloshin I dont repeat, I've got a mind of my own, such as it is wat there is of it, but its to bad, thais awi, and awi the way frum Africka, to. Who are you tawking about now, Kernal Roosevelt, sed ma. Im tawking about this calerbash pipe, sed pop. And he took a funny looking yello pipe out of his pocket, looking like a great big piece of mulsaz candy, saying, Awl the way frum Africka, jest think of it, and it gets the most bewill mahogany shade wen its kullired, but it takes constint smooking to kullir it. Its to bad you made up yure mind to cut yurself down to wun segar a day, isnt it, sed ma. Yes, I didnt think of that wen I bawt the pipe today, sed pop, awl the way frum Africka, jest think of that, it wud be awmost a krime to let it go to wait awl the way frum Africka. Waits the differents wat it cam frum, sed ma. Distants makes the smook grow strongir, sed pop, it takes constint smooking to kullir wun of these pipea rite. Sed ma, sed ma, but of korse that duzent do you mutch good. Did you see that packidge I brawt hoam this evening, sed pop. That big wun rapped in yello papir, sed ma, and pop sed, Yes, do you no wat was in that. Wat, sed ma. 3 pownds of terbackko, sed pop, And aftir suppir he put sum of it in the calerbash pipe and hes bin smooking it ewir sints.

tion at "the Hall." The exercises closed with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the assembled company. It was noticed that the chief didn't join in, and a reporter asked one of Murphy's friends, "Can't the boss sing?" "Sure," replied the friend. "Why, he used to belong to a quartette." "Then why doesn't he sing the national anthem?" inquired the reporter. "Dunno," was the reply, "but I guess he doesn't want to commit himself."

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