

# HIGGINS-MARTIN CORRESPONDENCE

## The Ex-Speaker Indignantly Repudiates the Attorney-General's Assertions About Him.

## THE MINISTER RETRACTS THE STATEMENT IN PART

### Mr. Higgins Denies Being in Confidence of Government—He Has Neither Consulted or Advised Messrs. Semlin and Cotton—Lively Interchange of Opinions.

Victoria, B. C. July 10th, 1899.

To the Editor: I have to request that you, who gave space to Mr. Martin's statement charging me with having gone into a conspiracy with Messrs. Semlin and Cotton to drive him and the other Liberals from the government, so that Conservatives might take their place, and I myself become a member of the cabinet, will allow the enclosed correspondence to appear in your columns. In making this request I ask for an opportunity to repeat, what I have often stated from the platform, in the press and in the legislature, that I am opposed to running provincial politics on a false basis, believing that there are sufficient weighty matters of provincial concern to engage the attention of the local house and government without instructing them to dabble in Dominion affairs of which I have no business to be concerned. I have entered into this controversy with reluctance and through no fault of mine, but I could not remain silent under the damaging and wholly untruthful attack of the Dominion Attorney-General. There was but one course open to me, and I took it.

D. W. HIGGINS.

Victoria, B. C. July 6th, 1899.

Hon. Joseph Martin, Attorney-General.

Dear Sir: In a letter dated July 5th, 1899, addressed to Hon. Mr. Semlin and signed by you, which appeared in the Victoria Times of yesterday, this statement is made:

"I charge \* \* \* that you and Mr. Cotton have entered into a conspiracy to drive from it all the Liberals with the idea of forming a Conservative government. I am informed and believe that you have already negotiated with Mr. Semlin and Mr. Higgins with a view of their entering a government of this kind."

Mr. Semlin can answer for this himself—he is well able to do that; but so far as I am concerned your statement contains not one atom of truth. I have entered into no conspiracy to wreck the present government by driving from it all or any of the Liberal members and substituting Conservatives. No suggestion of the kind was ever made to me. Neither have I been consulted with by Mr. Semlin, by Mr. Cotton, or by any other person or persons on behalf of this government, or of either of the political parties, with a view to my taking a portfolio, or a seat in this government, or an office of any kind under it.

Further, I am not aware of the existence of a conspiracy such as you mention, nor do I believe that your statement contains not one atom of truth. I have been informed and believe that you are giving vent to a gross slander reflecting upon me as a public man. I again denounce the statement as false—the connection of some lying fellow.

Lillooet, July 10.—The river is again approaching the ordinary high water mark. The weather is cooler.

Quesnel, July 10.—The river is at a standstill. The weather is cool and cloudy.

D. W. HIGGINS.

Attorney-General's Office  
Victoria, B. C. July 6th, 1899.

D. W. Higgins, Esq., M.P.E., Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir: Yours of to-day at hand. I accept at once your statement that you have not been consulted with by Mr. Semlin or by Mr. Cotton, or by any other person with a view to taking a seat in the government. I notice, however, that you state in your letter that you are not aware of the existence of any conspiracy such as I mentioned and that you do not believe that your statement contains not one atom of truth. So far as my informant is concerned I am not at liberty to mention any names; indeed I do not consider it at all necessary to do so, as I am quite willing to accept the statement made in your letter of to-day, or any statement you may make with regard to your own connection with this matter.

Yours truly,  
JOSEPH MARTIN.

Victoria, B. C. July 7th, 1899.

Hon. Joseph Martin, Attorney-General.

Dear Sir: I have yours of the 6th and thank you for your prompt reply. Your refusal to give the name of your

informant and your acceptance of my statement that I have not negotiated with Messrs. Semlin, Mr. Cotton, or any other person with respect to my entering the cabinet, would have ended this correspondence, so far as I am concerned, had you not directed that I must be permitted to turn a most unworthy insinuation against me.

I presume that you are in a position to prove the charge of conspiracy before the caucus of the government members called for the 20th inst., and as you have relieved me of that accusation I have no more to say on that head. But I do object to your insinuation that I am in the confidence of Messrs. Semlin and Cotton, that I have discussed the question of your dismissal with them and have advised them with regard to the matter. Let me assure you that I am not in their confidence; that I have not discussed the question of your dismissal with them; that I do not stand in the relation of adviser to them on any subject, and that I had not the slightest idea of the latest ministerial upheaval until I read of it in the newspapers. I have studiously avoided mixing in the trouble at all. Have had no interview with either Mr. Semlin, Mr. Cotton, or you, on the subject of discord. I regret as much as any supporter of the government can the unfortunate, not to say disgraceful, condition of affairs laid bare in your letters to Mr. Semlin and in the reports in the newspapers of the executive doing battle, as it were, in the full glare of the public eye, most humiliating and mortifying to all supporters of the government to whom I have spoken. I do not stop to ask who is to blame for this state of affairs. I only know that it exists and I live in the hope that the caucus will probe the matter to its core and fasten the responsibility on the proper shoulders. The condition is simply intolerable. Its continuance will damage the country at home and abroad and bring our legislative institutions into contempt and ridicule. If there is a man in the country who believes that the party or people will long abide with this chaotic condition of things I tremble for his sanity. A remedy must and will be found, depend upon it.

To remove the last lingering shade of suspicion from your mind with respect to my (supposed) arrangement with the government for a seat, let me assure you that the denial in my letter of the 6th was intended to cover every possible contingency—either present, remote, "direct" or indirect, direct or indirect, or implied. There was positively no arrangement of any kind. The matter was never discussed. I have the honor to be, Yours respectfully,  
D. W. HIGGINS.

**THE FRASER.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Lillooet, July 9.—The river is about at a standstill.  
Quesnel, July 9.—The river has arisen three inches. The weather is warm.  
Lillooet, July 10.—The river is again approaching the ordinary high water mark. The weather is cooler.  
Quesnel, July 10.—The river is at a standstill. The weather is cool and cloudy.

**TIN-WORKERS IDLE.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Lisbon, Ohio, July 10.—The skilled workmen in local tin mills went out on strike to-day for the recognition of the union. As a result every department of the plant is stopped and 800 men are idle. Although the mill has been paying the scale, the management announced it would never be run as a union mill. In view of the strike it is probable the plant will be abandoned.

**EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Los Angeles, Cal., July 10.—The city is ablaze with busting, and to-night 18 electric arches which span the principal streets will illuminate the scene in honor of the N. E. A.  
The second session of the National Council of Education was held to-day. Hon. W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education, submitted the report of the special committee of department superintendents on school hygiene. Z. X. Snyder, president of the State Normal school, Greeley, Col., read the committee's report on State Normal Schools. Dr. N. Murray Butler, of New York, read a paper on the educational progress of the year.  
The department of Indian schools also held a short session this morning.

**DISTRESS IN TEXAS.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Washington, July 10.—The secretary of agriculture has been appealed to on behalf of the flood sufferers of Texas for supplies for their use. He has been compelled to decline them as there is no appropriation for such purposes. Secretary Wilson has been sending all the quick growing seeds the department has in store, in the hope that they may be

planted in time to be productive this season.  
Telegram to the secretary from Chairman Houston, of the relief committee, estimates the number of paupers affected at 25,000. He says they are in great distress.  
**HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.**  
Discussed by Christian Endeavorers at Meetings Held To-Day.  
(Associated Press.)  
Detroit, Mich., July 10.—The closing day of the international Christian Endeavor Convention was the busiest day of a busy week. When the day is completed there will have been held eight great gatherings, provided the rain which began falling just after the big morning meeting assembled does not check operations.  
The general trend of the convention is conceded to have been to broaden as well as to inspire young people, rather than to have led them toward the narrow forms of spirituality or intolerant religious views. Missions was the topic in the great tents at the morning session. Foreign missions in the tent Endeavor, and home missions in the tent Williston. In the former but foreign missions were introduced to a great audience by "Father Endeavorer" Clark. The first address was by Rev. McLean, of Cincinnati. His topic was the great need of the world. One of the principal addresses in the tent Williston was by Rev. N. Howard, of Rochester, N. Y., entitled "Our Country's Greatest Need."  
The instruction of missionaries by President Clark was one of the features of the convention. Thirty workers in foreign fields spoke a sentence or two in the languages spoken in the scene of their labors and retired.  
The closing feature in Tent Endeavor was an address by Dr. Speer, of New York, on "The great blessings of missions." In Tent Williston President Boyd, of St. Louis, delivered an address on "Our country's many problems." He discussed the questions of immigration and race problems. As to the race problem, the speaker said in his judgment the government made a great mistake, which it will not be apt to repeat in the Philippines, when it put in the hands of negroes all the privileges and franchise of the freest government on the globe.

**A RAILWAY SMASH.**  
Two Women Killed This Morning in Collision Between Passenger and Freight Trains.  
San Francisco, July 10.—A collision between a freight train and a passenger train bearing delegates to the N. E. A. convention at Los Angeles occurred at Newman this morning.  
Two passengers, Mrs. Thomas of Seneca Falls, N. Y., and Mrs. Harris of St. Louis were killed, and five others slightly injured.  
The freight train was taking water when the passenger train came along on the same track.

**NEW AMERICAN REGIMENTS.**  
President McKinley Selects Lieutenant Colonels of Volunteers.  
(Associated Press.)  
Washington, July 10.—General Otis cables the following:  
The veteran regiments will enlist about ten thousand men. You can appoint eleven second lieutenants for the first, and nine for the second regiment, to recruit in the United States veteran volunteers infantry.  
Adjutant-General Corbin called General Otis that these designations could not be allowed for the Philippine regiments, and in order to save confusion they will be called the 36th and 37th United States volunteer infantry.  
The President has appointed the following lieutenant-colonels of volunteers: Major S. J. Bell, assistant adjutant-general of volunteers, now serving in the Philippines; Herbert C. Sergeant, who was colonel of the Fifth Immune regiment during the war with Spain; Captain John J. Brenton, of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, and Captain E. H. Plummer, of the Tenth Infantry. Capt. Breen was appointed from New Jersey to West Point, and graduated in 1877, since which time he has been with the 24th infantry. He was in the battle of San Juan Hill, and was highly commended for coolness and bravery. Capt. Plummer was commended for gallantry for gallantry in the action at Santiago.

**STRIKE TROUBLES AT LONDON.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Windsor, Ont., Forty local militiamen left this afternoon for London in response to a call from the district officer for troops to aid in quelling street riots there. It is believed the presence of the troops will hold the strikers in check without any actual fighting.

**THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Washington, July 10.—Unless Senator Fairbanks, while in Alaska, succeeds in finding a satisfactory solution of the vexed boundary question and brings with him material for the arrangement of a modus vivendi, the Joint High Commission will not meet in August.

**CLAIMS AGAINST UNITED STATES.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Vienna, July 10.—The United States government has declined the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian government to arbitrate the claims for damage arising from the death of Austrian-Hungarian subjects during the rioting at Hazelton, Penn.; in September, 1897.

**VILLAGE PARTIALLY DESTROYED.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Milwaukee, Wis., July 10.—A fire last night at Montello, Wis., a hamlet on the Wisconsin Central, destroyed twelve buildings, including one jewelry store, two grocery stores, three saloons, one hotel, one barber shop, one tailor shop and three vacant buildings. The fire started from an explosion of gasolene.

**SONG WRITER DEAD.**  
(Associated Press.)  
New York, July 10.—Chas. Graham, ballad writer, is dead in Bellevue hospital. In spite of the great popularity of his songs, he is said to have died penniless.

**Gold by the Ton**  
Faith Fenton Says the Output May Reach Twenty-Five Millions.  
The Break-Up of the Yukon—The Task of Collecting Royalty.  
Proceedings of the Royal Commission—Real Estate Activity.  
Dawson, Y. T., May 30.—The river ice in front of the town stirred from its winter fastness on May 17. The news that the ice was moving was telephoned from Klondike City, a mile above, and all Dawson rushed to the river bank, while the sawmills and steam fire engines set up shrill whistles of delight to mingle with the cheers of the people.  
Within half an hour after the first perceptible movement the river was a mass of swift-flowing white chunks that split and tore each other, crushing stray boats and floating timber like shells in their harsh grip.  
The ice moved with the current at the rate of six miles per hour. On the third day of the break-up the river was comparatively clear.  
It was reckoned that not more than one hundred miles of ice passed Dawson. The several hundred miles of upper river, that is, broke, melted and then merged into the Yukon waters.  
The first boats to arrive were a succession of barges of varied and curious build. They started from the foot of Lake Lebarge and travelled in the rear of "the ice floes." They brought miscellaneous cargoes of eggs, butter, vegetables and fresh fruit, and drove a flourishing trade on the river front.  
Colonel Evans, with a sergeant of the Yukon force, brought down the first canoe from Selkirk in a perilous run. Several half-breed treacherous escapes from being crushed between tremendous ice floes, and at one time both the voyageurs and their canoe were carried over thirty miles on a moving ice block.  
The First Steamer.  
Following these intrepid travellers a few hours later came the first steamer, the staunch little Flora, which was received by cheering delegates to the N. E. A. then various boats have appeared from winter ports, both up and down the river.  
It is hardly expected that Lake Lebarge will be open for navigation, and some delay at that point may be experienced by the outgoing mail boat, which leaves to-morrow. Another week, however, will find the upper river route open to navigation, and the summer traffic of the Yukon fairly begun.  
Royal Commission Resumed.  
As mentioned in our telegram of May 25, the Royal Commission, which had been adjourned pending the arrival of Messrs. F. C. Wade, McGregor and Norman, re-opened on May 17 to inquire into the charges made against Messrs. Wade or McGregor profited by the transaction, and the fact that it had been purely official; that Mr. Wade had acted in the matter simply to aid Mr. Fawcett, who was overburdened with work, and had even refused to accept of his commission as Crown Attorney to draw up the lease between the government and the lessees. Mr. Wade, who made an excellent defence, showed that at the time the lease was given it was an almost necessary expedient for the accommodation of the rush of gold-seekers, and that it was thus viewed by the officials who acted for the government in the transaction.  
The charge relating to the extortion of fees from lessee sellers, the Monte Cristo Island affair and other vague charges were probed and in each instance shown to be without foundation. The evidence given went rather to show that the Crown Attorney of the Yukon Territory had proved an efficient public servant under circumstances of unusual difficulty.  
In the matter of the charge against Mining Inspector Norwood made by Nellie Cashman, the woman upon being placed under oath, refused to substantiate her former statements, and the charge fell through.  
The Commissioner, in reviewing the evidence, declared the gentlemen in question to be fully exonerated from the charges made and formally closed the commission.  
It is unnecessary to comment further upon the results of the commission of investigation. The evidence produced, or the lack of it, speaks with sufficient clearness. But two or three facts have been made manifest as the inquiry proceeded, and these will bear emphasis. First, the light regard in which a judicial oath is held. The people making these charges did so in many instances in written affidavits, yet when placed upon the stand refused to substantiate their statements. Perjury is the commonest, and most lightly viewed crime in the Territory.  
Again may be noted the tendency to exaggeration. From some slight ground of fact to reach huge figures of fact is a feature markedly set forth by this judicial inquiry.

**Real Estate Revival.**  
Dawson has been experiencing quite a revival in real estate during the past six weeks. The success attending upon the drainage of the swamp in the rear of the town began it. The big fire of April helped it on, and the vacation of the waterfront tenements gave the conclusive impetus. Property values on First Avenue (the river side) street) has risen up in the second decade of the month for a week or more; during the past few weeks Second Avenue—quite recently a low quarter of the town—has leaped in value until at the present moment lots thereon average from \$5,000 to \$7,000 each. The intersecting streets behind these two avenues hold equally high priced property, while

throughout the town the prices have advanced considerably since winter and maintain well.  
This is not considered a boom, since a rush of incoming population such as that of last summer is not again expected, and business men here think that the country is settling down to a firm and steady development.  
The Wash-Up.  
The wash-up is at its height, and gold is beginning to come into town from the creeks in large and constant measure.  
Colonel Steele, of the Northwest Mounted Police, has issued a warning against unsafe characters that lie in wait on the creek trail at such seasons, and announced that a convoy of police would be started intervals accompany the gold brought down from the creeks. The claim-owners, therefore, can have protection if they choose to avail themselves of it.  
But the miners are proverbially daring or careless. They throw their gold over their shoulders in a little chamois-leather bag, pump with shining dust and trudge over the solitary trails into town. Only yesterday a man was "held up" on Humker Creek, while his winter's earnings were taken from him.  
Half a Ton of Gold.  
Several times recently trains of pack horses laden with gold, chiefly the product of one or two Eldorado claims, have come into town. Last week a train of seven horses carried over 700 pounds of gold. Today a mule train of five brought in half a ton of gold (1,000 pounds), each mule carrying two hundred. This came all from one claim, No. 16, Eldorado.  
At the Lippy claim on the same rich creek your correspondent held six nuggets that filled two hands, and were together worth \$2,000. These are to be sent east to a golden wedding that will be celebrated this summer. There were smaller nuggets of all shapes and sizes, hundreds of them overflowing in cups and cans and various commonplace receptacles, while down on the rough cabin floor were two large wooden soap boxes filled with gold dust.  
Like a Fairy Tale.  
To see the gold in the bottom of the rocker or sluice box, and push one's fingers through it, though you are wet, and to view the abundance of it from these rich claims is like living in a fairy story. But for every good claim, even including the moderately rich ones, there are twenty blanks; that also must be remembered.  
Any definite estimate of the output cannot be given before about the 10th of June. By that time several of the richest claims will have paid their government title, and some definite computation may be possible. But, as my telegram of the 25th stated, a speculative estimate from a reliable official source places the amount at between twenty and twenty-five millions. The collection of royalty is being carefully and strictly enforced. But various attempts have been made to evade payment, in part or altogether, with the result that there is a probability that several of the good claims will be confiscated by the government before the season closes.  
Commissioner Ogilvie and his able coadjutor, the commanding officer of the Northwest Mounted Police, are unwilling to enforce the sections of the criminal code relating to the concealment of gold output, but both are insistent that the law, so long as it stands, shall be observed. By reason of the more extensive work and the careful oversight maintained, the royalty will probably be double that collected last year.  
Commissioner's Heavy Receipts.  
An indication of the mining conditions in Dawson may be obtained by an estimate of the receipts at the Gold Commissioner's office. The total receipts of the Dawson office for the past six months are estimated unofficially to be somewhere near \$200,000. The largest amount in this sum has undoubtedly been in fees paid for new locations or first stakings, since the majority of benches and hillsides of the chief creeks have been staked since September last.  
The mining market shows very few claims in good locations for sale. Unprospected claims that promise well and unprospected ground in favorable locations are either not for sale or disposed of privately. Those on the public market are chiefly wild-cat.  
Yet the comparatively light test to which the grounds have been subjected keep the speculative spirit active by a sufficient measure of reward for money venture. The number of "strikes" made during the past winter certainly encourages further investment and risk.  
Fuel Supply.  
An epoch in the question of future fuel supply in the Yukon was marked last week when the natural coal of the district was subjected to severe test from the steam fire engine—No. 2 Abrens—which throws 360 gallons per minute and blows out at 120 pounds pressure. No difficulty was found in maintaining steam at blowing-off pressure, even when rushed. Steam rose from 100 pounds to 110 pounds in five minutes. After one and a half hours' continual steaming only a small handful of clinkers were found. During the test the poker was not once used.  
This coal is lignite, and is taken from mines owned by the North American Transportation Company, about nine miles below Forty Mile, on the Yukon, close to the boundary, line between Yukon and Alaska. Twelve hundred tons are now on the river bank ready for use on the steamers.  
Similar coal lands are found in various parts of the Territory, so that the question of local fuel supply may be considered settled.

**FAITH FENTON.**  
**MYSTERIOUS MURDER.**  
Erbe, Pa., July 10.—Clarence E. Shattuck was shot and killed early this morning and his body placed on the tracks of the motor line. His wife, Ella Shattuck, is locked up in the police station charged with murdering him. An examination of the body disclosed the fact that the man had been shot in the head, arms and neck.  
**CZAR'S BROTHER DEAD.**  
(Associated Press.)  
St. Petersburg, July 10.—The Grand Duke George, brother of the czar, is dead.

**Mails For the Islands**  
Contract Closed With the Victoria and Sidney Railway Company.  
The Dominion Government Secure an Improved Service at Reduced Rates.  
Statement by Premier Laurier Regarding Alaskan Boundary Question  
(Special to the Times.)  
Ottawa, Ont., July 10.—The contract for the mail service with the islands as far north as Nanaimo has been closed with the Victoria and Sidney Railway Company, and will take effect in about three months. The service will be three times a week. At most points it is only weekly at present. The whole service will be done at reduced rates.  
Royal assent was given to a partial supply bill, and also to a large number of other bills in the Senate this afternoon.  
In the House this afternoon Premier Laurier announced that Sir George Burton, Chancellor, Boyd and Justice Falconbridge would be the commission of judges who would be asked to distribute electoral districts within counties. This statement was made when the Redistribution bill was taken up.  
Col. Prior read a column or so of a dispatch in a newspaper about the Alaska boundary, which in newspapers for a settlement of the main boundary were off and that there was no likely to be any agreement on a provincial boundary.  
Premier Laurier said that he was not called upon to answer, upon every occasion, for what appeared in newspapers on this subject. He might add again, that the permanent boundary matter lay in about the same position as when the commission adjourned, and so far as the United States and Canada did not agree upon it, but he hoped it would be settled soon.  
A Senator Drowned.  
Ottawa, July 10.—News has been received here that Senator Sanford has been drowned while boating on Muskoka Lake.  
Hon. William Er Sanford, Hamilton, was born in New York in 1838. He was president and managing director of the W. E. Shaw Manufacturing Company, President of the Hamilton Ladies' College and a member of the Board of Regents of Michigan. He was identified with the early history of Manitoba and was one of the largest land owners of that province. He was a Conservative and was called to the Senate in 1887.

**SIMILAR TO DUMDUM BULLETS.**  
(Associated Press.)  
London, July 10.—The under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. W. H. Murray, replying to a question of Michael Davitt in the House of Commons to-day, acknowledged that bullets, similar to the Dumdum bullets, which were condemned at the Hague conference, were being supplied to British troops in South Africa.  
**KAISER'S VISIT TO PARIS.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Paris, July 6.—With the exception of the Reichstag, the papers comment favorably on the Emperor's visit to the French training ship at Bergeon.  
The Figaro says: "The tenor of the telegrams from the Emperor and President Loubet is a matter for particular gratification. A rapprochement between the Berlin and Paris cabinets is desirable from a colonial point of view."  
The Petit Journal says: "The Emperor has obtained a triumph of policy. He will now meet with few obstacles in the realization of his desire to visit the exhibition of 1900."

**THE PHILIPPINE WAR.**  
General Otis Accused of Sending Home False News.  
Berlin, July 8.—The difficulty of the situation in the Philippines is regarded by the press here as confirmatory of the views expressed before the rebellion. The Vonstede Zeitung makes merry over what it calls General Otis' "Napoleonic art of preparing bulletins," and adds: "With negligence of the most obvious facts, he has been reiterating for months that the resistance of the Tagals was broken, their arms in complete dissolution, and the end of the war in sight." The Deutsche Tages Zeitung prints a letter from a German at Manila complaining of the Americans "destroying the best trade and industry in the Philippines," and deceiving their countrymen at home by sending false news.  
**PLAGUE AT ALEXANDRIA.**  
(Associated Press.)  
Alexandria, July 10.—Three cases of plague were reported here yesterday.  
**ZOOGRAPHIC TICKS.**  
A swab of a tick published in the Montreal Star shows that the letter submitted by the United States government to the authorities which resulted in the deportation of the Spaniards Carranza and Dubosca was a forgery.  
While some boys were playing at Bowmanville they found two wallets stolen from the Standard Bank in the burglary of May 12, for which the bank offered a reward of \$100.  
On Saturday a warrant based upon complaints made to the representative of a New York newspaper was issued for the arrest of President A. M. Cannon, of the Salt Lake district of the Mormon church, charging him with polygamy.  
The Italian general, Giliardi di Sanquisepe, who was arrested at Nice last Monday on a charge of espionage and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, will be released on July 14.

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