

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 19, 1910

THE GOVERNMENT AND CAMPBELLTON.

A member of the staff of the Telegraph and Times was recently sent to Campbellton, and the following special despatch to the Times, yesterday, is the result:—"To increase the embarrassment of the situation the provincial government have not yet signified their intention of assuming the interest on the bonded indebtedness of the town. This last is a serious matter. The amount of the interest is \$12,920, and the uncertainty is responsible for the way that land sales have fallen off entirely."

This statement, as every one familiar with the situation well knows, is a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts of the case. As long ago as July 29 last, Mr. Hazen went to Campbellton to meet Mr. Pugsley prepared on behalf of the provincial government to negotiate with the Minister of Public Works, representing the Dominion government, for a joint guarantee of the interest on the bonded indebtedness.

A conference took place and Mr. Pugsley promised to take the matter up with his colleagues. The same evening, for the need was pressing, a delegation consisting of Judge McLatchey, Mr. James Reid, M. P., and Mr. Thomas Malcolm left Campbellton for Ottawa to interview Sir Richard Cartwright, the acting premier, and other members of the cabinet. In a despatch from Montreal on August 3, the delegation is reported returning home "confident that the government would come to the assistance of Campbellton," and that a guarantee for 15 years of the town's municipal debt would be given, the federal government and the local government being joint contributors.

The confidence of the delegation seems to have been misplaced. For nearly three months now the local government, ready to contribute its share, has been awaiting the decision of the federal cabinet. There has been no response. On one pretext or another Mr. Pugsley has evaded giving a definite answer. His latest excuse appeared in his organ, the Telegraph, on his arrival in St. John last Tuesday week. When asked about the situation in Campbellton he said that "the question of assistance to the stricken town had been taken up in council by the Dominion government" but as all of the members were not present further consideration was postponed until the end of this or early next week when he returns to Ottawa. He remarked that many of the people were still living in tents and that there was much suffering and hardship, but in spite of their deplorable condition he could not "help being impressed by the remarkable enterprise shown."

When the city of San Francisco was in sore straits, it did not take the members of the Dominion cabinet nearly three months to make up their minds to contribute \$100,000 on behalf of Canada. When Hull was devastated by fire very prompt and substantial assistance was forthcoming. Why should the people of Campbellton, who, as Mr. Pugsley has seen for himself, are suffering hardship and are in a deplorable condition, be put off with empty excuses? When Mr. Pugsley returns to St. John this week according to his own statement he should know definitely what the Dominion government intends to do. For the credit of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues, it is to be hoped that substantial aid to the stricken town will be forthcoming. If it has not been prompt, it can at least be liberal.

ALBERT COUNTY AFFAIRS.

The Moncton Times has been investigating the truth of certain statements made by Mr. S. S. Ryan at the recent political meeting at Elgin, and the result is instructive as showing the kind of political ammunition which the local opposition is driven to resort to in its attacks upon the Hazen government. Mr. Ryan's indefinite charges of mismanagement and graft in Albert county are shown to be without a shadow of foundation. The exposure of this discredited representation of Albert county is convincing and complete.

"We took occasion a few days ago," says the Moncton Times, "to characterize some statements made by Mr. Sanford S. Ryan, ex-M. P., at a political meeting at Elgin as 'self evident falsehoods'; and we ventured the opinion that Mr. Ryan would not repeat the fabrications before an audience where proof of their falsity would be forthcoming, nor before a tribunal where evidence could be had under oath. Of course, no person acquainted with Mr. S. S. Ryan, ex-M. P., and his peculiar notions of political warfare would expect him to come out in the open, and he is but following his natural bent by rehearsing his calumnies and retelling his insinuations in out-of-the-way places and in the holes and corners."

"As previously pointed out Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P., was careful at the Elgin meeting to avoid giving names, places or dates, so that his falsehoods could be promptly nailed, and we take the liberty of supplying the omissions. Mr. Ryan is reported (vide the Transcript) to have stated:—

"In the case of one bridge over \$150 had been advanced to be spent for hardware when it was evident 'to any farmer that it was not possible to spend more than \$15 or \$17 in hardware on that bridge. Where did the difference go?'

"The inference here, and which Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P., wished to go abroad, is that some person had stolen \$135. The bridge referred to is The John Milton Bridge, and the charge of \$150 is for lumber supplied by Godard Bros., of Elgin, and not hardware, and which facts are known to Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P. The difference is that between truth and its opposite."

"Another statement of Mr. Ryan is:—'In another instance a man said his bill had been collected for \$66.75, and he only got \$6 of that amount. This the man who received the \$6 was prepared to swear to.'"

"Supplying the data designedly omitted by the rejected of Albert we may say that the 'instance' referred to was the John Milton bridge in Coverdale and the man supposed to be implicated in the transaction was Mr. John Milton. If Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P., had mentioned Mr. Milton in connection with the alleged transaction that would have been sufficient refutation for those who know the two men. Mr. John Milton states to the Times that his voucher for labor and materials on that bridge was for \$67.00. (\$66.75 was wondrously near the truth) and he received a cheque for \$67 direct from the Public Works Department. The statement that he got only \$6 and that he was prepared to swear to it is absolutely false, and Mr. Milton thinks that Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P., knew he was stating an untruth at the Elgin meeting, because there had been previous conversation over this bridge between Mr. Ryan, Mr. Milton and Coun. Lane Colpitts.

"Mr. Ryan's statement, received according to the Transcript with ringing applause, that Structural Superintendent Hoar had received \$9.00 for one trip of inspection to a bridge on which the outlay for labor only totalled \$9.00 was a fabrication pure and simple, and there is no claim, voucher or payment in the Department of Public Works that will give even color of probability to such a statement.

"Some of the falsifiers of Albert County were brought to book during last session of the Provincial Legislature. Others are being groomed for a nice trimming when next the House meets. It may not be out of place here to refresh the memory of Mr. Ryan, ex-M. P., and his colleagues in spiteful malignity by quoting the resolution unanimously passed by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Assembly on March 24th last, as follows:—

"After hearing the statements made by Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Garland and Mr. Hoar, regarding the charge made by Mr. McKenzie in a letter to Hon. Mr. Robinson, dated Jan. 27th, 1909, on account of the work done on the Mullis Steeves, the Fred Steeves and the Sherman Martin bridges, we find the statements were not warranted by the evidence produced, and nothing was shown that any of the Albert County bridge officials were dishonest in their dealings with the provincial funds."

"It is pertinent to remark right here," concludes the Times, "that Ex-Chief Commissioner Labllois and Mr. J. P. Tweeddale, M. P., are members of the Public Accounts Committee, and assented to the resolution censuring the Albert County mischief makers."

CALM BEFORE THE STORM.

Things have been so quiet over in Great Britain all through the summer that it is hard to realize that the political situation is not changed in any essential respect from the time when the people were yelling revolution and predicting civil war. The Lloyd-George budget is in force, and so far it has not shown any of the ill results expected by its opponents. A profound and far-reaching change in financial policy would not naturally show its real effects in a country of Great Britain's stability in so short a time as has elapsed since the new budget. But if there is any subtle undermining of the foundations of trade it is not visible on the surface. In fact the new finance has been assisted by a very noticeable revival of trade, and the government, as a consequence, is undeniably stronger than it was at the beginning of the year.

At the same time the question of the House of Lords remains unsettled, and there seems to be less and less likelihood of a mutual agreement between the parties upon a measure of moderate reform. The enemies of the House of Lords have not progressed an inch towards its destruction, and it is pretty certain that they will not, and that its reform, which is necessary, will be eventually accomplished by its friends.

The real political issue in Great Britain remains as it has been the question of tariff reform. It suits free traders to pretend that they are as strong in Great Britain as they have ever been, but it is equally strange what an extraordinary amount of defence and explanation an impregnable position seems to require. The fact is that the old-time Cobdenites do not know just how strong the tariff reformers are or what inroads they have made, and they are distinctly uneasy. In the last two elections tariff reform has shown remarkable gains, and if it maintains its rate of progress it is easy to foresee that it is bound to finally become the trade policy of the country.

For the next twelve months politics in Great Britain is bound to be a record of unceasing and bitter warfare, for on the questions which are stirring the public today men recognize more fundamental differences and feel more deeply than they have on any public issues for half a century.

Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

From the ultra-imperial sentiment expressed by the Premier in the West, it was a far cry to his cold nationalistic utterances in the Quebec metropolis. Amongst his own compatriots he pretends that he has successfully resisted Great Britain's "demands," that the Dominion should contribute to Imperial defence. The truth is that the proposal for overseas contributions to a central fleet emanated from the outlying dominions themselves and particularly from Mr. Smartt of Cape Colony.

(Canadian Collier.)

This sounds like Rochefortism, but it came from a commercial traveller who was reading the daily paper on the train. "I figure out," he said, glancing over a particularly coarse piece of work in the way of appointments, "that there are two ways for a politician to land a government job. Either he must be a great help to his party and be rewarded, or he must be a great nuisance and be got rid of."

(Detroit Free Press.)

A Chicago physician (female) says that the time is coming when it will be considered a statutory crime for a woman to have more than two children. And we presume it will then be the duty of the doctor to yell for the police to come and take the mother of triplets.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The lord advocate of Scotland finds that the grain growers of the Canadian west "have blown colonial preference clear out of the water." One begins to think that the British cabinet includes the most glib as well as the most accomplished of public men.

(Hamilton Herald.)

We notice with some apprehension that the deepest impression made upon the editor of the Toronto Globe in his tour of Mexico appears to have been made by "the shining eyes of the bewitching senoritas."

(St. Paul Dispatch.)

News of the bombardment of the palace at Lisbon carried to many people the first information that Portugal had a warship that dared fire a gun without danger of capsizing.

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The Standard, Oct. 19, 1910.

THE MISPEC PULP MILL

To the Editor of The Standard.
Sir:—In your issue of Friday, Oct. 7th, notice some remarks about our municipal home and the Mispec pulp mill. Without making any comment, I would like to say that no good public utility should be looked up for the purpose of being a nuisance. It is wrong in principle, wrong in practice and ruinous in detail. We should look for something different from that.

In my judgment our almshouse and Boys' Industrial Home should aspire to be self supporting and thus relieve the community of a burden. An opportunity might well present itself to wards that end if the institutions were placed under one management and potatoes raised for the Cuban market by acquiring a nearby property.

This could not be done at Mispec. A stream like this, one of the best in the province, with fine tidal harbor, should be a hive of industry, abounding in benefits to city and county. When the city purchased that property, as I understood at the time, it was to save the city against damage from possible diversion of water or power. This seemed good at that time. Perhaps a better step would have been to have created greater scope for holding back the freshet in the lakes which will some day be done.

I am satisfied from personal knowledge that more power can be developed on this stream than most people are aware of. Some arrangement should be made with the present company to start the wheels in motion that would be satisfactory to all concerned, instead of letting it fall into decay.

Even if the will were sold, the purchase money could be used to build back the freshet at any time the city so desired, reserving the right to share in the power thus created at any time the city wanted to construct an electric power plant at that place.
Yours, etc.,
JACOB S. WOOD.

To the Editor of The Standard.
Sir:—I would like to call the attention of the citizens generally and the honest independent members of the common council to a game that is evidently hatching in connection with the disposal of the Mispec pulp mill. Your paper this morning records a resolution passed by the executive of the Board of Trade endorsing an offer of \$30,000 for a property which the city paid \$115,000 for a few years ago.

Why does the Board of Trade interfere in this? The innocent public don't suspect that there are rings and cliques watching opportunities to get a grab on the public domain. It is plain to those who can read between the lines that this is just such a game which the Board of Trade is put to the front to cover up, and it is plain to those who know that there are members of the Common Council, behind the tricksters using the board, whose connection with it must be kept in the dark.

We have now a recorder who is paid a salary to watch the city's interests and I hope he will get to the bottom of this little game and expose it to the honest independent members of the council.
Yours, etc.,
THOMAS POTTS.

LATE SHIPPING.

Dominion Ports.
Halifax, N. S., Oct. 18.—Arr. Stmr Boston (Nor.) James; Winnie, Wilmington, N. C., from Glasgow for coal; Schr. Evadne, New York.
Montreal, Oct. 17.—Arr. Stmr. Manchester Trader, from Manchester.
Sailed—Stmr. Mount Temple, for London and Antwerp; Walmai for Australian ports.
British Ports.
Glasgow, Oct. 18.—Sailed: Stmr. Parthenia, Montreal.
Middlesbrough, Oct. 18.—Sailed: Str Devonian, Montreal.
Liverpool, Oct. 17.—Arr. Stmr. Manzanilla, New York; Corishman, Montreal.
Foreign Ports.
Vineyard Haven, Mass., Oct. 18.—Arr. Stmr. G. M. Porter for Port Jefferson; Sailed: Schr. Magdalene, from Apple River; W. H. Waters, from River Herbert, for Fall River.
Sailed:—Stmr. Zealandia, Liverpool and Queenstown; Schr. Crescent, Portland and New York.
Rotterdam, Oct. 17.—Arr. Stmr. Othello, Wabana.

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Michael Walsh in Hard Luck.
Friends of Michael Walsh, West Side, will be sorry to hear that he has met with a double misfortune. A few weeks ago he fell in Montreal and suffered a fracture of the right leg. He was kept in the hospital there for a time, and when it was wise to travel, came home. One day last week, while moving about his home in Carleton on crutches, he slipped on the stairs and fell, again breaking the leg. Since then he has been suffering considerably and will be confined to the house for some time. Mr. Walsh is the well-known skater, and is in the employ of the C. P. R., working here in winter and in Montreal in summer. The double injury will, it is feared, keep him out of the skating game in the future.
Standard Girls En Tour.
The Eastern Argus, of Portland, Me., Oct. 17, says:—"On board the steamer Calvin Austin, when she arrived here Saturday morning on her way to Boston, were ten bright and breezy St. John girls on their way to Boston, New York and Bermuda, they being the winners of the St. John Standard's free trip competition."

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