

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1914.

## THE DUGAL COMMISSION

A report which has gained some currency during the past few days is to the effect that one of the witnesses summoned to appear at the session of the Royal Commission to probe the Dugal charges, on Tuesday next, may not take the witness stand; that he has left the province and may not return for some time.

The report has reference to Mr. W. J. Berry, chief of the government sealers, who, being in poor health, has gone to consult a physician, and it is deemed his condition is such as to warrant the treatment, may enter a sanatorium. This information was given to The Standard last evening by Mr. Berry's wife.

When the story was first given publicity it was as a mere statement of a report and was not commented upon. Since that time, however, some scandal mongers have been at work, and an editorial in the Telegraph of yesterday might be construed as inferring that Mr. Berry's departure was not altogether a surprise. The Telegraph said in part:

"It must be supposed in the premises that all of the requisite witnesses will not hesitate to respond to the summons of the commission. Should there be any exceptions, a most unfortunate public impression in regard to such exceptions would clearly be unavoidable. As to what course the commission would take under such circumstances, it is not our province to speculate, but it must be kept in mind that men who may have to do business with one of our provincial departments or another during the coming months or years should think it well to maintain a record for frankness and straightforward dealing at a time like this. Any other course would be likely to result in forfeiting public confidence, and that might lead to undesirable complications."

Also, in connection with the matter, it is to be regretted that Mr. P. J. Veit, who has been credited with being close to Mr. Carvell and Mr. Carter in the preparation of the Dugal charges, found it necessary, the other night, to intimate to a Liberal gathering in the city of Moncton, that the Provincial Government was forced to have the matter dealt with by Royal Commission instead of by a Committee of the House, in which supporters of the Government would have been in the great majority.

It is just as well to have these matters cleared up before the taking of evidence commences. Any insinuation that the Government desires to suppress evidence, either by getting witnesses out of the way or by other means, is entirely without foundation. The Government is a unit in the desire that all the facts shall be brought out. If there had been any disposition to hide, or to take advantage of having the charges heard by a partisan body, it would have been easy to give to Mr. Dugal only what his backers instructed him to ask for—a committee of the House, composed of six supporters of the Government and one member of the Opposition. Such might have been regarded as proper Carvellian tactics, but it was not the course adopted by the Government.

Mr. Veit or any other gentleman, taken up upon himself to declare that the proposal to refer to Royal Commission was not a Government proposal, of its own volition, he states what is not the fact, and if the Telegraph, or any other organ of the Pugsley-Carvell crowd, insinuates that Mr. Berry, or any other witness, may be absent from the sessions of the Commission with the sanction of members of the New Brunswick Government, such newspaper is guilty of misrepresentation.

The charges have been made; the Commission has been appointed to hear them, and the machinery for probing all matters involved has been set in motion. It is the desire and intention of the Government that this hearing shall be no whitewashing expedition and the very personnel of the Commission precludes the possibility of such a thing. If there has been guilt on the part of any one that must come out. The Government will be satisfied with nothing less. Insinuations that there is any disposition to hide, are worthy only of the men who make them.

## REDISTRIBUTION.

By the grace of the Senate of Canada, the Redistribution Bill was permitted to go through unopposed and the members of the Red Chamber are entitled to that much credit. Aside from mere political grounds it is difficult to see what excuse the Laurier majority in the Senate could have in voting for opposing the measure for, in point of fairness, it will stand up in comparison with the best efforts of previous governments confronted with the problem of providing adequate representation for this rapidly growing country. A last minute change

in the measure retains to Prince Edward Island its present representation of four members. In all other cases the recommendation of the committee having the matter in hand was adopted.

The new bill provides for a House of Commons of 235 members. This is an increase of 54 over the first parliament in 1867, and of 14 over the present or twelfth, parliament. While the changes have been dealt with at length, during the deliberations of the committee having the matter in charge, it may be of interest to briefly outline how the provinces will stand on the new basis. Ontario loses four seats, New Brunswick two, and Nova Scotia two. Quebec and Prince Edward Island are unchanged in their total, and the western provinces gain seats as follows:

Manitoba and Alberta five each. Saskatchewan and British Columbia six each. The new House will be made up as follows:

Prince Edward Island . . . . . 4  
Nova Scotia . . . . . 11  
New Brunswick . . . . . 11  
Quebec . . . . . 65  
Ontario . . . . . 82  
Manitoba . . . . . 15  
Saskatchewan . . . . . 16  
Alberta . . . . . 12  
British Columbia . . . . . 13  
Yukon . . . . . 1  
Total . . . . . 235

One of the interesting changes made by the new bill is that which affects the Island of Montreal, to all intents and purposes Greater Montreal, which will return more representatives to the next Parliament than the whole province of New Brunswick. This is remarkable evidence of the growth of Canada's greatest city where the representation has practically doubled in the last fifteen years.

Of the changes in the province of New Brunswick, they represent the best solution of the problem. It was hoped that this province, in common with other of the Maritime Provinces, might have saved its representation, but the majority has decided otherwise. If the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are not to keep pace with the West and, consequently, lose representation with every redistribution, the situation might afford a good argument for Maritime Union.

## A HALIFAX OPINION.

The St. John Telegraph and Times, judging from their editorial utterances, are quite certain that the bulk of the winter port business next season will be handled through the port of Halifax, that the winter city will have the better end of it in reference to the mail contracts, and that Premier Borden and Hon. Mr. Hazen are keeping awake at nights trying to figure out ways and means to sidetrack St. John. That is the impression the Pugsley organs attempt to force upon their readers. If there were a shadow of ground for it we might expect to find the Halifax newspapers happily optimistic and when, on the contrary, they adopt a tone which indicates they believe Halifax is to be sacrificed for St. John it naturally causes ground for the suspicion that the attitude of the Telegraph and Times is due to other motives than concern for this port.

For instance, if the situation here is as gloomy as the Pugsley organs try to make out, what interpretation is to be placed upon the following editorial taken from the Halifax Echo of Thursday evening?

In the debate on the mail steamship question at Ottawa, the other day, Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, declared that in the signing of all future mail contracts provision would be made for a division of the business between the ports of St. John and Halifax. And later on, in the same debate, Premier Borden announced that the choice of ports would be left to the contracting steamship companies.

It is quite impossible to reconcile these two statements, unless indeed Messrs. Borden and Hazen are willing to admit, what is apparent to all who have followed the progress of the controversy to date, that "leaving the choice of ports to the contracting steamship companies," is precisely the same thing as insisting that St. John be given a portion of the business. But Messrs. Borden and Hazen have never admitted as much. On every possible occasion they have sought to create the impression that the mix up of last winter was of the steamship companies' own making.

However, the declarations made in Parliament by the two members of the Government representing St. John and Halifax can only be regarded as clinching the contention that the Government is interfering in the mail service to the very great detriment of the port of Halifax. Mr. Hazen states that in future a division will be made in the mail business between the ports of Halifax and St. John. Premier Borden states that the choice of ports will be left to the contracting steamship companies. They are evidently in complete accord on the subject. What each means is that St. John is to be favored at the expense of Halifax.

There can be no other interpretation.

When the port of Halifax is used by the mail steamships an average saving of thirteen hours is effected. Manifestly therefore the interests of the entire Dominion as well as the interests of the people of this city demand that Halifax be specified in the mail contract as the port of call.

Mr. Hazen ignores the just claims of Halifax when he argues that there should be a division of the business between the two ports, seeing that Halifax is the superior port. And Premier Borden ignores the just claims of Halifax when he argues that the choice of port should be left to the contracting steamship companies.

Moreover, Premier Borden ignores the fact that Halifax is the port of call for the steamship companies, and that it is he, Mr. Borden, who is merely opening the way to political jobbery of the worst sort.

The opinion of the Telegraph of Times upon the fears of the Halifax newspaper would be a most interesting contribution to the discussion over the winter mail service.

## Diary of Events

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

The first parliament of the United Province of Canada was formally opened seventy-three years ago today.

June 13, by the Governor, Lord Sydenham. The session of the law makers was held in Kingston, which had been chosen by Lord Sydenham as his capital. Under the act for the Union of the Canadian Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada were each to have forty-two members in the legislative assembly. The Governor died from injuries received in an accidental fall from a horse soon after the meeting of the first parliament, and was succeeded by Sir Charles Bageot, who retained Kingston as the capital. When Sir Charles died in 1842, Sir Charles Metcalfe became Governor, and he removed the capital to Montreal in 1844, under that provision of the Union Act by which the right to select the place and fix the time for holding "the first and every other session" of the Canadian Parliament was conferred on the Governor.

The first House, which met in Kingston, was largely French and Radical in political affiliations, while the second House, headed by the Hon. W. H. Draper, was completely Tory, save for one Liberal member, the Hon. Robert Baldwin, a French-Canadian, who without representation in the ministry, and this fact, together with the fact that all but one of the members of the council were Tories, naturally aroused the animosity of the new Assembly. Lord Sydenham, by the pending storm, which broke during the administration of Sir Charles Bageot. Following the conflict between the Council and the resignation of Baldwin, Sir Charles formed a new executive under the joint leadership of Robert Baldwin and L. H. Lafontaine. In this ministry, which was Liberal, the French-Canadians were fairly represented. When Sir Charles Metcalfe took up the government and announced his policies, the Baldwin-Lafontaine government resigned, and Draper returned to power, while Kingston lost the capital.

### THE HUMAN PROCESS ON

IRISH BARD 49 TODAY.

Ireland's sweetest singer, William Butler Yeats, who recently made a lecture tour of American and Canadian cities, will begin his fifth year today, having been born in Dublin on June 13, 1865. The Irishman poet, comes of a distinguished family. His father, John Butler Yeats, achieved renown as an illustrator and painter of portraits. His grandfather, the Rev. William Butler Yeats, was a prominent Irish clergyman. His mother was the daughter of an Irish nobleman and a French nobleman. The other children of J. B. Yeats, "Jack" Yeats became a portrait-painter, while Lily and Evelyn Yeats were prominent in the revival of the ancient industries, applied arts, and language and literature of old Ireland.

As a boy the future poet was devotedly fond of natural history, and was given to carrying insects and small animals around in his pockets. He was also very absent-minded, and left his strange pets in the most incongruous places at the most inopportune times. At the age of nine Yeats removed to London with his parents, but he usually spent his vacations in Ireland, and while still in his teens he returned to Dublin and began the study of art at the Royal Dublin Society. He abandoned art for literature at twenty-one.

While he had previously contributed poems and articles to magazines and college publications, Mr. Yeats may be said to have entered on his real literary career a quarter of a century ago, with the publication of his first volume of verse, "The Wanderings of Oisín." This was followed by "The Fairy and Folk Tales," dealing with Irish myths, fables and legends. In his younger days the Irish bard affected Bohemianism, including a velvet jacket, Windsor tie and tortoise-shell rimmed glasses, and wore his hair long. Latterly he has adopted a more conventional style of garb, but he still clings to the flowing tie which has long been the mark of the poet and artist.

The poet has lately devoted much attention to the drama, and he is a joint director with Lady Gregory of the Abbey Theatre and its company of Irish players, who are well known in America through their productions of "The Playboy of the Western World" and other Irish dramas. "The outcome of the trip of the Irish players to this country two years ago was very good," said Mr. Yeats in an interview published in the New York Times a few months ago. "The Irish theatre, like the Irish politician, has to go to Irish-America for its real support. Everybody can say, 'Wait until you go to Irish-America, then you'll hear the truth about ourselves.' Well, we have been there, and, in spite of certain little occasions

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Pop, I sed to pop last nite, I no ware you can get a peetch of a top for a sent.  
Sumtimes yure nollidge of yure houn stly farely astownds me, sed pop.  
Yee str, I sed, will you give me a sent to get win with.  
Well, kunsidring its you, yee, sed pop.  
And he gave me a set and I stood holding it a wile and then I sed, its a pritty good top, awl rite, but you awt to see the wun they give you for a sent.

Wat, at the saim plase, sed pop.  
Yee str, I sed.  
Its to bad you havent got 3 sents or you mite get a 3 sent wun, mient you, sed pop.

Yee str, I sed, if you gave me 2 moar sents Id have 3 sents.  
You dont mean to say you kowntd all that up in yure hed in that short time, sed pop.

Yee str, I sed, will you.  
Well, kunsidring its you, sed pop.  
And he gave me 2 moar sents and I stood holding them a wile, and then I sed, They give you the best top in the stoar for 5 sent.

Give me the 3 sents back and Ill give you 5 sent, sed pop. Wich I gave him back the 3, and pop sed, Sum ubir time.

Sir, I sed.  
I was meerly finishing my formil sentence, sed pop, the kumplest sentence is, Give me the 3 sents back and Ill give you 5 sent ubir time, and the morril is, Ask and yee shall receive, pridding you dont make a pig of yure self.

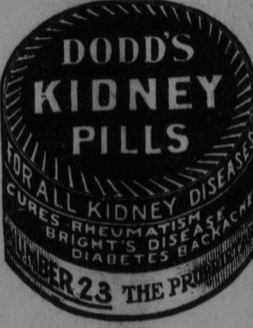
And he put the 3 sents back in his pocket and I stood there looking at him and aftr a wile I sed, Pop.  
Present, sed pop.

Will you give me back the first sent to get a penny wun, I sed.  
O, seding its you, awl rite, sed pop. And he gave me a sent and I went and bawt a wun sent top, being pritty good for a sent but you awt to see the 5 sent wuns.

al tributes from certain quarters in words, we have survived, and have even made many friends.

"The arrest of our players in Philadelphia did us an immense service in Dublin, because however unpopular the playwrights have been at times, the players have always been popular."

In the opinion of the poet, "The world will have to go through a period of violent realism, of dragging into



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