

MONTREAL STAR DEMANDS THAT THERE BE AN INQUIRY INTO THE PUGSLEY CHARGES

(Montreal Star, Independent.) It is idle for Mr. Pugsley to try to make capital out of the fact that the affidavit on first read to the meeting in St. John, puts the payment to him by Mayes in 1907 instead of 1905. Every journalist will remember that the correction was made at once. Before comment could be written on the matter in this office, THE CORRECTION HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY WIRE FROM ST. JOHN; and there was a very considerable time before the election. This surely removes all suspicion that there was any intention to deceive the people on that point. A deliberate deception intended to fasten upon the Minister the suspicion of having asked for and received money improperly after having taken office at Ottawa, would certainly have been persisted in until polling day.

Mr. Pugsley did not strengthen the impression that he had made a good defence by dwelling so vehemently upon this point. Mr. Pugsley intended to give a convincing explanation of the whole affair. It is not denied for example, that Mr. Pugsley got the money, and WE ARE TOLD HOW HE EARNED IT. Mr. Pugsley thinks that we could not get the money back. Other lawyers are quite positive that we could. In any case, the country WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT TRIED. Even if it were not to recover our \$35,000, we would be very likely to GET LIGHT on the whole transaction which would be worth considerably more than the sum at stake. People would like to see Mr. Pugsley on the witness stand; and they would not be sorry to see certain other gentlemen, whose names are connected with this case, follow him in kissing the Book. It is INFORMATION that the country wants more than restitution. The government will not grant an inquiry because no Opposition member will assume the responsibility of making definite charges. The point seems to be missed that it is not so much a question of charging the Minister of Public Works as an arranger of the entire system.

Mr. Pugsley was not Minister of Public Works when McAvity and Mayes paid their mysterious visit to Ottawa. All he is accused of doing at that time was to ADVISE MAYES TO GO TO McAVITY IF HE WANTED TO GET A CONTRACT with the Government; and it is quite possible—if all we hear is true—that MAYES MIGHT HAVE GOT THAT ADVICE FROM ANY OTHER LIBERAL whom he would have happened to meet on the street. Yet even if there was nothing more in the affidavit than this, there ought to be an inquiry. THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF should be the first to desire a full and public examination of the facts with a view to finding and curing any disease which it might have contracted. Naturally the Opposition are trying to direct the spot light upon the Minister against the fighting Minister who overthrew would bring them party profit. But it is not by any means a matter of anti-Pugsleyism. Mr. Pugsley comes into the light more as the known friend of the Government. He is accused of the act of putting pressure ON MAYES TO PAY McAVITY than as a PRINCIPAL IN THE ORIGINAL "IDEAL." The matter should be investigated even if Mr. Pugsley's denials be all accepted. The failure to make charges against him DOES NOT RELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE duty of probing the Mayes story to the bottom.

As for Mr. Pugsley, Sir Wilfrid Adams says that IF THE AFFIDAVIT BE TRUE, MR. PUGSLEY MUST GO. But how are we to discover whether the affidavit is true or false when Mr. Pugsley is SO CARELESS OF HIS HONOR that he will not see Premier Hazen, who published it; and when HIS HONESTY THAT IT WILL NOT HOLD AN INQUIRY INTO THE VITAL QUESTION WHETHER HE AVIAT GOT A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT FOR HIS FRIEND AND RECEIVED \$35,000 FOR HIS POLITICAL "PULL"?

MEETINGS IN INTEREST OF LOCAL OPTION

In several of the churches yesterday meetings were held in the interest of the local option campaign. They were all very largely attended and the speakers given an attentive hearing. The temperance people are very confident of success in all four wards.

Rev. W. R. Robinson spoke very clearly on the local option questions to a large and interested gathering in the Tabernacle Baptist church yesterday afternoon. He went fully into the arguments of his opponents concerning vested rights, pointing out the fallacy of such a claim.

THE MORAL ISSUES

Taking up the moral issues especially emphasized the evil effects of the saloon on home and community. Last evening in the same church he spoke on local option from a financial standpoint.

Main Street Baptist church was held to overflowing last evening to hear Rev. Hutchinson. He took as a text: "Put away all evil." He most heartily thanked their opponents for publishing the lists of those who signed the petitions in favor of local option. He considered the liquor traffic a great evil in that it created an appetite which resulted in a thousand crimes of poverty and decay and of crime to command a use to a nation, but an enemy of every kind of business.

N.R.C. SEEMS ABOUT TO BE ABANDONED

The absent members of the club were not displaying very much interest in the destinies of the club was the opinion expressed by those present at the annual meeting of the N. R. C. boat house at its winter quarters on the West Side until more officers should be displayed.

EXAMINED THE CUSTOMS SYSTEM HERE

Messrs. Henry McLaughlin and A. E. Geroux, of Montreal, who have been Rev. Canon Nestor officiated. The roll bearers were Mayor McLean, Town Treasurer McPeters, and members of the Town Council of which Mrs. Coggon's husband was a member.

TEMPERANCE ADDRESSES IN E.D.C. ROOMS

Rev. James Crisp, of Zion Methodist church, and Councilor Ballentyne, of Westfield, addressed the members of the Every Day Club's rooms, on Sunday.

SEARCH PARTIES OUT FOR BOY THOUGHT TO BE DROWNED

It was felt in the North End last evening that the gravest grounds existed for fear that Gordon McLean the twelve-year-old son of Mr. Eason McLean, street railway inspector, had been drowned or in some unassuming manner.

CINCINNATI CITIZENS PICKED UP LATE STATE; PLEBISCITE IS INTERESTING

Tomorrow is civic election day, the day of fate for thirty-one aldermanic candidates and for the retail liquor dealers of Lorne, Lansdowne, Victoria and Dukes wards, where a plebiscite is to be held.

INTERESTING COMPARISON BY PROF. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, of Washington passed through St. John on Saturday on his way from Baddeck, N. S., to the American capital, Mr. W. F. Bedwin, who was Prof. Bell's laboratory superintendent at Baddeck, accompanied him on the occasion.

MISS YERXA IS HOME FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. J. M. Millican, of the St. John schools for some time before going to South Africa, is visiting Mrs. E. C. Ekin. Miss Yerxa will return to South Africa in July.

ELECTION CARDS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN.

Ladies and Gentlemen—I will be a candidate for the coming election for Alderman-at-Large. My object in running for this office is to bring the rate of taxation down to a reasonable level, and to do so that it will be possible to live in St. John with a taxation reduced, not to exceed \$1.50 on the \$100.

ALD. JAMES SPROUL. Again a candidate for Alderman in Prince Ward.

A Novel Concert. The West and Every Day Club have secured the services of the Royal Main Steamer for the purpose of holding a concert in the City Hall, on Wednesday evening, at eight o'clock.

Sale of Furniture. The sale of furniture belonging to Mr. T. L. Parsons has been postponed to the 20th inst. as the fitting of the office furniture will be completed today.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY. The Bible Society executive will meet at 7 P. M. C. A. tomorrow, Tuesday evening, to discuss the work of the Society for the coming year.

Broke the Glass. Some person unknown broke in the glass in the door of Phillip McQuire's saloon on Mill street, Saturday night.

Notice of Meetings. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Fredericton Diocesan Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, will be held in the school room of St. John's (Stone) Church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

ASSIGNEE NOTICE. TAKE NOTICE THAT Joseph B. Hamm of the City of Saint John in the County and County of Saint John, Livery Stable Keeper, pursuant to the order of the Court made at a meeting of the Court on the 15th day of April, 1909, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, has appointed ROBERT B. HITCHIE, of the City of Saint John, assignee of the estate of the late John B. Hitchie, of the City of Saint John, deceased.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN. Ladies and Gentlemen—I will be a candidate for Alderman to represent Victoria Ward at the Elections on April 20th.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN. Ladies and Gentlemen: At the solicitation of a large number of ratepayers of St. John I have decided to offer myself as a candidate for Alderman-at-Large.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN. Ladies and Gentlemen: I am a Candidate for Alderman in Victoria Ward and solicit your support.

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COOL DAYS WINTER PL FOR SE

Regina, April 17.—Cooling the past few days with seeding operations in the west, but the delay and there is no concern outlook for the season. High wheat in the markets of the west, but the delay and there is no concern outlook for the season.

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W. T. PARSONS GETS BIG CONTRACT

Winipeg, April 17.—The Pacific Railway has let a contract to W. T. Parsons for the building of 10 miles of the new line between the city and the west. Parsons has secured the contract for the building of 10 miles of the new line between the city and the west.

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