

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XII

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NO. 80

## Tailor-Made SUITS

Think of the time and trouble you save! Think of the convenience of it! You step into our cloak department, select your style and size, and there you are, or if we do not happen to have your exact size your order will be taken and suit delivered in 10 days or 2 weeks. We are told there is no such display of suits in Chatham as ours, certainly we have the prettiest collection ever in this store. Here are slight descriptions of three styles:

- Made of fine all wool Black Venetian Cloth, Jacket made Norfolk style, silk lined, skirt made panel front and trimmed with wide circular folds. Price, \$19.00
- Made of fine all wool Navy Venetian Cloth, jacket collarless, trimmed with braid and buttons, blouse front, latest sleeves, skirt is 7 gore flare, braid trimmed. Price, \$13.50
- Made of Flaked Cloth Suiting in shades of Navy, Brown and Black, jacket made Russian Blouse style, trimmed with braid ornaments and fancy metal buttons; skirt made panel front; pleated flare and trimmed with braid ornaments. Price, \$18.00

### RUGS—

The handsomest collection of rugs ever shown by us is here now. All styles and sizes from the door mat up to the largest room size, from the jute up to the Axminster.

Rugs are a very great feature in floor coverings at the present time, and we are prepared to show you this season almost as great a variety of rugs or carpets, and you know what that must mean.

We can suit your idea of price, no matter what it is, and every desirable size is now in stock.

### KID GLOVES—

Your new suit demands a new pair of kid gloves. You are absolutely safe in buying your kid gloves here, because every pair is fully guaranteed. The best French makes are represented in our stock and we show a range of shades from which you can match almost any color—\$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50 a pair.

### BUTTERICK PATTERNS—

Recognized throughout America to be the best patterns made. April styles now in. April Delineator and spring catalogues now on sale. Fashion sheets free.

## Thomas Stone & Son.

### Sherwin Williams

### PAINT.

50 Barrels just opened at Westman Bros. . .

We have special paint for Outside House Painting, Inside House Painting, Floor Paint, Floor Finish, Varnish, Stains, Enamels, Buggy and Implement Paints.

PURE WHITE LEAD.

PURE LINSEED OIL.

ALL AT RIGHT PRICES AT

## WESTMAN BROS.

BIG HARDWARE.

## BIG VALUE

### Groceries

### Crockery

AT M'CONNELL'S Park St.

### WHY HE WORE IT?

Judge Houston was wearing a huge bunch of Shamrocks this morning. "Why are you wearing that Shamrock?" asked the inquisitive one in perplexity. "You're not an Irishman."

"Didn't you know that St. Patrick was a Scotchman?" answered the Judge with a smile that gave evidence of his pride in the saintly Scotchman or any other great men whom the land of hills and heather have given birth to.

### HIS LONG EXPERIENCE

Captain Fred B. Stevens was disconsolately standing in front of the market building this damp wet morning and inhaling smoke from the remnant of a 10 cent cigar. "This is the worst season in the grain business that I have seen in 35 years, more or less," remarked the genial Fred B. "The supply of grain is limited and then also the quality is bad. Owing to the wet season last year the grain crop was very poor, you might almost say ruined."

## PLAIN WORDS BY MR. GURD

An Attempt to Humbug and Dupe the People on the Raleigh Oil Fields.

The Banner Newspaper the Instrument to Deceive the Local Investors—An Ugly Scheme Exposed.

A. T. Gurd, the owner of the famous Gurd Gusher in Raleigh, makes some very startling statements in reference to the Dominion Oil Company, who are at present prospecting for oil in the Raleigh fields.

This company have a number of leases in Raleigh and have their stock upon the market for sale. It appears that they have advertised the statement, in circulars which have been sent all over the country, that Messrs. Corey, Cooper, and Gurd are stockholders of their company. Mr. Gurd wishes this statement denied.

"This Dominion Oil Company," said he to The Planet last evening, "are deceiving the public, and it is too bad that they are. In the first place, I am neither a director nor a stockholder in this company. They own only a third interest in Raleigh, whereas they lead people to believe, in their advertising matter, that they own the whole field."

"I do not wish to speak discouragingly of the field, but this company is making some very extravagant misrepresentations as to the production of oil. They are doing this right along through the columns of the Banner, which paper is being worked, as it were, to advertise the Dominion Oil Company. The fact of the matter is, that the company's yield of oil in Raleigh does not exceed 25 barrels per day."

"The most important part of all is this: The company say they have paid dividends for January and February. Now, their production of oil in Raleigh does not warrant these alleged dividends, in fact the last dividend was paid out directly from the company's treasury funds."

"The claim in their last advertisement that they have secured 360 acres near Wheatley. Well, they have only a third interest in that, and besides, no oil has been pumped there."

"I think it is only right that these facts should be known, for the people are being deceived every day. In my opinion this Dominion Oil Company is merely a gold brick and a fake."

This company are the owners of Mr. Woodward's one-third interest in the gusher. Mr. Gurd was offered \$5,000 for it, but he would throw in his lot with them and become a stockholder and the vice-president of the company. Mr. Gurd, however, refused the offer.

### POULTRY ASSN.

A meeting of the Kent County Poultry and Pet Stock Association was held last evening in W. H. Robinson's law office with the following present: President Geo. A. Sayer, W. A. Conibear, Dud Poile, Mat. Side, Ans. Mounter, Art. Wilson, Syd. Northwood, W. White, John Conibear, Theo. Conibear, Ralph McCubbin, Geo. Wanless, A. Forsythe, S. Hancock.

Secretary W. Plummeridge being late, the meeting was delayed for about an hour, but in the meantime chickens and other things were discussed with some vigor.

The Secretary was instructed to look up the by-laws of the Association and bring them to the next meeting.

A committee consisting of President Sayer, Secretary Plummeridge and S. Hancock were appointed to meet the Council next Monday in reference to securing a meeting room until the Association is on a good financial basis.

Wm. Plummeridge was appointed judge for the "Rock" show, which will be held April 7th. The idea is to have all the members of the Association bring their birds up and compare them and see the good points in the others and profit by the meeting.

"Rocks" will be the first breed to be brought up and others will follow on the next night. It will be a good education for the chicken fanciers. Messrs. Mounter, Wilson and Wanless were appointed to look after the advertising of the eggs the members of the Association have for sale.

A meeting will be held in two weeks for special business.

### MAPLE CITY OIL CO.

A meeting of the Chatham Oil Co. was held last evening in T. C. O'Rourke's office, King street, with a good attendance.

A committee was appointed to look after the leasing of more lands and an overseer was appointed to look after the boring of the well on the Jordan place in Chatham west. The hole is now down about 220 feet and about 120 feet of shale has been passed through. Although this is not the best kind of a sign, they are now in soap stone, which is a much better indication.

## STRATTON PLACED RESIGNATION IN HANDS OF CABINET

It was Not Accepted and Ross Refuses to Say Whether Still Have it Under Consideration.

Questions as to the Custody of the Documents in the Case—Telling Speech by Mr. St. John.

Toronto, March 16.—The feature of to-day's session of the Legislature was the telling speech of Mr. J. W. St. John, of West York, who drew from the Ministry the announcement that on the night Mr. Gamay made his sensational charges, Hon. J. R. Stratton had sent to the Premier his resignation of the Provincial Secretaryship, and that it had not been accepted, and some cross-firing between leaders on both sides respecting the custody of the documents which Mr. Gamay placed in the hands of Mr. Whitney on Wednesday last. The galleries and the available space on the floor of the House were again crowded with spectators, and city police were called upon to assist the regular door men.

THE PROPOSED COMMISSION. On the opening of the House, Mr. Whitney again asked the Premier to give any information respecting the composition of the proposed commission.

The Premier replied that the details of the commission were being prepared and the papers would be brought down at the proper time.

THE DOCUMENTS AND MONEY. Mr. Whitney here explained that on the day Mr. Gamay made his charges he had placed in his (Mr. Whitney's) custody, in the full view of the House, the documents and part of the money received in connection with the bribes offered him. Producing from the drawer of his desk a large sealed envelope, Mr. Whitney exclaimed, "And

hands. If the leader of the Opposition was anxious to expediate and facilitate the investigation he would concur with his suggestion. He thought he should co-operate in the most amicable way."

Mr. Whitney—I would be ready to co-operate with my hon. friend to the full limit of my power if the Premier will change his motion before the House and refer the charges of the member for Manitoulin to the committee on Elections and Privileges, instead of to a Judicial committee. Under the present circumstances the hon. gentleman can scarcely expect the documents to be put in the hands of the Speaker, or rather in the hands of the Government.

The Attorney-General then took a hand, contending that as the matter was still before the House and not yet in the hands of a commission, Mr. Whitney had no right to let the documents out of his possession. There were strong reasons why these documents should be unfurled. Mr. Gibson called attention to the fact that Mr. Gamay had just left the House with the documents. They might as a result never see them again. He thought Mr. Whitney was taking a great responsibility.

Mr. Foy said Mr. Gamay had given the documents to Mr. Whitney with the request that he should not let them out of his possession. Mr. Whitney would, therefore, not have been justified in giving them to anybody else than Mr. Gamay, and when Mr. Gamay made a request for the papers Mr. Whitney could do nothing but comply. Mr. Gamay required the documents because at the investigation he would be called upon to prove his case.

## THE INVESTIGATION.

Todd, the standard authority on Parliamentary practice, says:

"It would be unconstitutional to refer to a Royal commission subjects which are connected with the elementary duties of the Executive Government," or "acts of misconduct which may have been committed by a Minister of State, and which should be investigated by the House of Commons."

To make the attitude of the Liberal party against commissions clear to the public and binding upon its leaders, a resolution was adopted by the Liberal convention of 1893. It protested against the reference of such charges to a commission and concluded: "That it is ancient and undisputed right of the House of Commons to enquire into all matters of public expenditure, and into all charges of misconduct in office against Ministers of the Crown, and the reference of such matters to Royal commissions created upon the advice of the accused is at variance with the due responsibility of Ministers to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the Executive Government, and this convention affirms that the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld." At that convention Sir Oliver Mowat was vice-president and Mr. G. W. Ross was a member of the convention.

Mr. David Mills, who has since been elevated to the Supreme Court, declared that "the Acts of the different provinces which authorize the Crown, upon the advice of Ministers, to appoint commissions to investigate certain public matters never contemplated an investigation into the conduct of Ministers. The charges ought to be investigated by those whom the Constitution has entrusted with this duty. It would be an act of folly—I might say a crime—for any Liberal, either from policy or cowardice, to defend any attempt to take this matter out of their hands."

here they are!" Continuing, he said: "When I agreed to become the custodian of the documents and immediately after the adjournment of the House that day, I took them to my room, and in the presence of the member for Manitoulin and the member for South Lanark placed the money and documents in this envelope and sealed it, as you see it now. I will ask these two gentlemen if the envelope is the same as I sealed on that day?"

Both Colonel Matheson and Mr. Gamay admitted it was.

"Now," continued Mr. Whitney, "I had no option but to accept the custodianship of these documents and moneys. These were voluntarily given to me by Mr. Gamay, and until he made his speech in the House I had no information directly or indirectly in any shape or manner that such documents or money were in his possession, or that the charges, which were made by the hon. member, were forthcoming. At the request of Mr. Gamay I now return the papers to him as I received them."

Premier Ross—Am I to understand that the papers will not be placed in the possession of the speaker by the member for Manitoulin?

Mr. Whitney—I understand the member for Manitoulin will consult his solicitor as to the disposition he shall make of the documents for the present.

Mr. Ross said the member for Manitoulin had made grave charges, and it was only right that the documents which set forth these charges should not disappear from someone directly responsible for them. If the proceedings were to be conducted in a systematic way the documents should be placed in the hands of the Speaker, and he would move that the documents be given into the Speaker's

on the question of the tribunal which should try them? Did not their very existence depend on their votes? The House was a jury. Should the accused vote with the jury? The position was unique. The existence of the Government depended on the vote of the Ministers who were more in number than the majority in the House. Therefore he submitted that the parties who held the casting vote were the accused, "and in that case," said Mr. St. John, "what becomes of justice?"

The Premier had talked of party bids in a committee appointed by the House, and then had intimated his intention to carry his motion by a majority of the House.

The question was not one of the fate of a minister, but of the whole Government, and the ministers should step out into the corridors and say "We plead not guilty, and demand fullest investigation; go on and do what you like."

The ministers were arraigned before the bar of public opinion, and that House was representative of public opinion.

"Does the Hon. Premier demand the fullest inquiry?" asked the Speaker impassively. "I should like to hear him say yes."

The Premier—Yes. "Then I say that no man in the House knows better than he that a reference of this matter to a commission is an attempt at whitewash."—Opposition applause.

That the ministers should vote on the question of the tribunal was improper, and in bad taste. They should show confidence in the fair-mindedness of the House.

When these charges were made the Provincial Secretary should have stepped out of the Government.

Mr. Stratton—I might say that I tendered my resignation when the charges were made.

Mr. St. John—Then I would like to ask the Premier whether it was accepted.

The Premier—It was not.

"Then," said Mr. St. John, "Mr. Stratton is still a member of the Government and the Government accepts full responsibility?—Opposition applause."

The Premier refused to reply as to whether the resignation was still under consideration.

Before the Government demanded that Mr. Gamay's documents be placed in the hands of the Speaker, continued Mr. St. John, the documents in connection with the case, which were now in the department, should be handed over by the Government to the Speaker for custody. The Premier had said that they desired the fullest investigation. How these ministers swallowed themselves and neglected to consider the principles established at the great Ottawa Liberal convention in June, 1893. They found that at this convention the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Hon. David Mills, for some years Attorney-General of the Dominion, and now a Judge of the Supreme Court:

"This convention affirms that it is the ancient and undoubted right of the House of Commons to enquire into all matters of public expenditure and into all charges of misconduct in office against the ministers of the Crown, and the reference to such matters to royal commissions, created upon the advice of the accused, is at variance with the due responsibility of ministers of the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the executive Government, and this convention affirms that the powers of the people's representatives in this regard shall on all fitting occasions be upheld."

"It is late, then," said Mr. St. John, "that ten years later they have to come here to sidetrack their great responsibility by swallowing the whole resolution, body and bones."—Applause.

On the committee of resolutions that prepared this motion were two of the hon. gentlemen who were now accused by Mr. Gamay—Hon. Mr. Stratton and Hon. Mr. Gibson. The secretary of the committee was Mr. Andrew Pattullo, of North Oxford, and Mr. James Connors was one of those who backed the job. Moreover, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was a member of this resolution committee. In face of this they found this Liberal Government.

Continued on Eighth Page.

## STYLE & STRENGTH

Are Two of the greatest characteristics of our

### Misses' and Girls' Footwear.

and the prices are within the reach of the slimmest purse.

\$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 up to \$2.50 Guaranteed all Solid and Outer Soles.

Sole Agents for DOROTHY DODD for Ladies, and INVICTUS for Men.

## PEACE & CO.