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# The News.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCT. 16, 1908.

## A CONSPIRACY OF SLANDER

Disappointed in their attempt to force the Minister of the Crown, Dr. Pugsley, to resign, the Conservative party have resorted to a conspiracy of slander, in an attempt to force the Minister to resign.

For months Mr. Mayes, aided by Mr. Baxter, has been endeavoring to sell discredit to the government at the expense of the Minister of the Crown, Dr. Pugsley.

Personal entreaties failing, effort was made to induce prominent citizens, by promise of "take-offs," to bring pressure to bear upon the Minister.

If the Minister had anything to fear from these "exposures," if anything which he could not truthfully say could touch his character, he could at any time have demanded a copy of the "exposures" which Dr. Pugsley has published.

Hence, the "bombshell" statement which Mr. Hazen delivered with such pleasant effect at the Conservative meeting last night.

And what are these charges with which those whose raid of the public treasury has been followed by a "take-off" to get "revenge"? So far as Dr. Pugsley is concerned, they are simply that he sent Mr. Mayes to Mr. George McAvity as a "take-off" for his dredging business, and that subsequently he demanded and received \$2,500 for his work in this connection.

It should be sufficient evidence of the wilful falsity of this statement that all the charges were made three years ago, while Dr. Pugsley was Minister of the Crown, and before he had any influence in or thought of entering the federal arena.

And Mr. McAvity, even his political opponents will admit, is quite able to take care of himself. The Sun was unable to get a statement from him up to the late hour when the report of Mr. Mayes' sensational reached this office.

## THE WAY PROVINCIAL MONEY GOES

Some of the enemies of Dr. Pugsley have been endeavoring to injure him by stating that he and other members of the late provincial government were in the habit of drawing money from the public treasury for their personal use.

## THE LEGISLATURE

The legislature, Mr. Flemming made a payment to Mr. James Crockett, manager of the Gleason, \$500 for the printing of the Statutes. At that time no Statutes had been passed, nor were any passed until a month after this payment was made.

## A BIRD IN THE HAND

As the Sun predicted several days ago, the Conservative candidate has retired from the hopeless contest in Victoria-Madawaska.

## A NEW ERA BEGUN

Within a few weeks work will begin on the new government wharf in Sydney, the construction of which signifies a new era in the history of the port of St. John.

Prior to 1898 all that was done for St. John was done by the citizens, not only with a dollar of government assistance, but with a dollar of government skepticism of the federal authorities.

Not only has the government dredged, free of cost to the city, the site of the wharf, but it is building the wharf itself, and is contributing a quarter of a million, the only portion of which to be borne by the city.

## FOSTER, FOWLER AND THE FORESTERS

Referring to Mr. Foster's action for libel against a Quebec politician who charged him with being responsible for the increase in Foresters' insurance rates, the Conservative Montreal Star proposes to the editor and prospective Finance Minister the same dilemma suggested by The Sun.

## THE G. T. P. BOGEY

An anonymous letter addressed, in excellent English, to Sir Wilfrid Laurier from "A French Canadian," is going the rounds of the Conservative press.

## MR. FOSTER SUES

George E. Foster has brought action for libel against J. W. Levesque of Laval, P. Q., who in a recent speech declared that "Foster had speculated with the funds of the I. O. F. and that he was the legal adviser of the I. O. F. and had caused the loss of \$100,000 of the premiums and reduce the value of the policies from the face value of \$100,000 to \$700."

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## THE OUTLOOK

Summing up the political situation in New Brunswick, the Outlook writes: "The Conservative party, which can be accused of political bias, says: 'The good winners are saying Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Whether as a reward for his services or for his good deeds, the Old Man, as he is called by his followers, is to have an order of knighthood.'"

## "PURITY" FOR PROFIT

It would be less difficult to believe the sincerity of Conservatives in general and Mr. R. L. Borden in particular if they did not so persistently use the language of clean elections for campaign purposes.

## MR. McAVITY AND MR. MAYES

If anything more than Dr. Pugsley's personal word, or the fact that Mayes' compelled admission of error were needed to smother the Conservative scandal and utterly discredit its promoters and participants, it is furnished in the affidavits published by Mr. George McAvity.

## THE TABLES TURNED

Monday night the local Conservative party stood aghast at the denunciation of Liberal graft and blackmail as participants in and defenders of Conservative graft and blackmail.

## LABOR AND THE PARTIES

While the Conservative party is posing as the friend and patron of Labor, the Liberals have added to their program a portfolio of Labor, while the Conservatives are promising to fight the interests of Labor.

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## A SCANDAL THAT FAILED

The latest Conservative slander has provided just the spark needed to fire the fighting spirit of the St. John Liberals in their campaign. Hitherto largely because of the general impression that the contest was too one-sided, interest has not been keen and white the Liberals have been confident by figuring out their majority, Daniel and Mackie have been setting in some quiet but energetic work.

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