

# The St. John Standard

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## CONCERNING MISSING WITNESSES

In consideration of the charges against Hon. J. K. Flemming and Hon. H. F. McLeod, in connection with the Valley Railway matter, and of the fact that some gentlemen, whom the counsel for the prosecution in the case desire to call as witnesses, apparently are not in the province, it is decidedly unfair for any newspaper to insinuate or charge that the Government of New Brunswick, or any member of that Government, is guilty of conniving at the absence of these gentlemen with the hope that while they are not in court when called upon some more or less important phases of the case may be concealed from the public.

As The Standard has already pointed out, if the Government of this province desired to conceal anything, or to get a favorable verdict from the tribunal examining the matter to have referred the charges to the Committee of the House, for which Mr. Dugal asked. This was not done, and the reason was that the Government was as anxious as any one else that all the facts should be made public. All the venomous productions of machine Grit newspapers cannot rob the Government of the credit for the stand taken and that stand was in the direction of full publicity.

Now it appears, or it has been so stated by Mr. Carvell or some of the witnesses, that two or three gentlemen, whose evidence Mr. Carvell believes to be material to the development of his case, are not within the jurisdiction of the Royal Commission, and at once the machine Grit press concludes that this condition exists because the Government desires it. In other words they contend that the Government, if it is so desired, could very speedily produce the gentlemen in question. Let us see who these gentlemen are and just what magic power the Government could wield to cause their appearance in court. The Times sets them forth as Mr. James H. Corbett, a Valley Railway contractor, Mr. A. R. Gould, president of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company, and "two others." Other papers mention the name of Mr. Lisman, a New York attorney, who is, or has been, identified with the construction company most interested.

The first named gentleman, Mr. Corbett, is a contractor. He held his contract from another contractor and not directly from the Government. The Government having no business connection with him it is difficult to see how that body could force him to return to New Brunswick or what penalty they could inflict if he persisted in absconding himself. Instead of raving at the Government, as it has been doing, the Times would further the case if it would suggest a means by which Mr. Corbett and Mr. Lisman could be forced to return. If, as that newspaper intimates, Mr. Corbett is being kept away as the result of a Government wish, it should be easy for the Times to suggest means of forcing him to return. Until the Times does this its comment upon the situation can not be regarded as representing anything more than mere partisan spleen.

The same will apply to Mr. Lisman. That gentleman also had no connection with the Government. He was a director of the Quebec and St. John Construction Company. Acting for that company he was one of the men who negotiated a loan through the Prudential Trust Company of Montreal, but this loan was made on good security and, apparently, was only an ordinary business transaction such as those carried through every day by the local banks. The Government was not concerned and again it is quite reasonable to suggest that if the Times or Telegraph believe he is being kept away from this province through the connivance or consent of the Government they are remiss in their duty to the people if they fail to make a definite charge to this effect as well as point the way by which the Government can cause the missing one to come to St. John and undergo the cross questioning of Mr. Carvell.

Next we have Mr. A. R. Gould, also reported to be among the missing. There are many who think that Mr. Gould should return but, if he does not choose to do so is there any way of enforcing his attendance? Mr. Gould, as president of the company, would probably be a more important witness than either Mr. Corbett or Mr. Lisman, but if he refuses to come here by what process can he be forced to come? If the Telegraph or Times were administering the affairs of the province of New Brunswick, which, in the interests of honesty, it is to be hoped will

never be the case, just what measures would they take? A little explanation on these points should have more effect than all the abuse of the Government and those connected with it. If the Pugsley organs desire to impress the public mind with their real simple honesty, aside from their political affiliations, it seems to The Standard that the opportunities here suggested are too valuable to be overlooked.

## THOSE "ON TRIAL"

The Times remarks: "The Standard still appears to think that it is Mr. Carvell and the Telegraph and Times who are on trial at the bar of public opinion." The Pugsley newspaper hardly states the case correctly. This newspaper has treated with all fairness the events developing in the enquiries now before the Royal Commission. We have contended that the evidence should be brought out but we have also asked for a measure of justice to the accused. We still urge this although we realize that it is not in the make-up of Mr. Carvell or the Telegraph or the Times to give justice to any person when that person happens to be a hated Tory.

Throughout the whole course of the enquiry into the timber charges, or the Valley Railway matter, it is Mr. Carvell who has made the insinuations and has been guilty of grand stand plays. He did not hope to impress the Commission for those gentlemen while permitting him much latitude, have been actuated by the desire to get out the facts and in their finding they may be depended upon to be governed only by the facts, and not by Mr. Carvell's demagogic utterances. Mr. Carvell is not concerned regarding the commission's verdict. In his wild appeals for "justice for the 'pee-pul'" of this great province" he sees, merely, an opportunity to furnish newspaper copy for the Telegraph and the Times and political capital for himself. The Standard has no wish to interfere with Mr. Carvell in the production of evidence, but we do say that the members of the Commission should prevent him from using the proceedings of that body as an opportunity to make cheap political speeches. The hearing of the charges against Hon. J. K. Flemming and Hon. H. F. McLeod is not an inexpensive proceeding. Every session of the Commission costs the dear "pee-pul," whom Mr. Carvell professes to hold in such high regard, a tidy sum of money. There is a cash value upon every minute spent and to permit those minutes to be frittered away while Frank B. Carvell is saving the air and uttering cheap platitudes for partisan political effect is not fair to those who must pay the bills.

Coming to the case of the Telegraph and Times, there is little need to dilate upon the course they have pursued. By their own columns they have been convicted of falsehood and unfairness. Mr. Brown of the Prudential Trust Company, an independent witness, who came to St. John in response to a request from Mr. Carvell, was made by the Telegraph to say things he did not say and he, himself, in conversation with a representative of this newspaper, characterized the Telegraph report as garbled, biased and unfair. He would hardly have complained if his complaint was not well founded.

The vapors of the Times have been no less unfair than those of the Telegraph. From the time the charges were first launched they, and all matters connected with them, have been treated by the Telegraph and Times in a manner that reflects discredit upon journalism in this province. The Standard is fully aware of the seriousness of the charges against Mr. Flemming in the timber limit cases, and Mr. Flemming and Mr. McLeod in the Valley Railway cases. These men are now on trial and upon the report of the Royal Commission may, to a great extent, depend their political future. But it is well to remember that they are being tried by a Commission appointed for that purpose and not by the mouthings of Mr. Carvell or the efforts of the journalistic assassins of Canterbury street. Already the newspapers named would have had Mr. Flemming and Mr. McLeod tried and convicted, if abuse could try or slander convict.

The Standard has not lost sight of the real issue, the guilt or innocence of the men charged, but we do protest, and most strongly, that Mr. Carvell, life long political enemy of Mr. Flemming, should not be permitted to use the sessions of the Royal Commission as a place to brew the poison of insinuation and unfounded statement later to be poured forth as truth by the Telegraph and Times. The Times declares it is not on trial at the bar of public opinion. It should be grateful that fortune has been so kind to it.

## CARVELL AND BERRY.

When, on Friday, during the session of the Valley Railway enquiry, at Fredericton, Mr. George W. Fowler intimated that Mr. Carvell knew more than he cared to admit about the whereabouts of W. H. Berry, the timber scaler, and much wanted witness in the timber limit investigation, Mr. Carvell waxed very wroth and declared that Mr. Berry would return to this province if a certain telegram were sent to him. Upon Mr. Fowler's suggestion that Mr. Carvell should send the telegram that gentleman went into another passion.

Shortly after the hearing adjourned Mr. Carvell proceeded by the first train to St. Stephen. Last night The Standard's St. Stephen correspondent wired to this newspaper the interesting information that on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Carvell and Mr. Stevens were the guests of Willard H. Berry at a Calais hotel. If this information is correct, and coming from a reputable correspondent, we have no reason to doubt it, it would appear that Mr. Fowler spoke by the book when he intimated that Mr. Carvell was probably in closer touch with Mr. Berry than any other man in the province of New Brunswick. In fact it is not unreasonable to suppose that when Mr. Carvell made the statement he did, he knew that Mr. Berry was in Calais and that he would spend the following afternoon as Mr. Berry's guest.

There is only one construction to be placed upon Mr. Carvell's statement and that is that he deliberately sought to make another sensational play for capital and political effect. All that is now required to give him all the credit he counts upon getting is to have the Telegraph and Times brush up their big type to proclaim the chief of the dark lantern brigade as the undaunted captor of the man who may become a most interesting witness when the case is resumed.

## Diary of Events

### HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

One of the most melancholy processions that ever entered Halifax harbor was that of July 6, 1898, when the British iron sailing ship "Cromartyshire" of Glasgow, bound for the town of the Grecian. Two days before, at a point about sixty miles off Sable Island, the Glasgow vessel had collided with the French liner "La Bourgoigne," and had inflicted a death wound which caused the passenger ship to sink within a short time. Of those on board 284 went down with the ship. Those saved numbered 168, including one saloon passenger, ten second-cabin and fifty-one third-class passengers, and 104 members of the crew. Only one woman, Miss A. La Corde of Plainfield, N. J., was among the saved. The "Cromartyshire," severely wounded but still able to float, was lost in the fog, and it was not until after La Bourgoigne had taken her final plunge that the British vessel was sighted. The "Cromartyshire" was enabled to reach the shore by the assistance of those who were struggling in the water. The small boats of the "Cromartyshire" were sent to the scene of disaster, and the crew worked heroically and saved all who had managed to keep above water. In the afternoon the steamship "Grecian" was sighted and in a short time the "Cromartyshire," with those who had been saved on board, was towed to the harbor. Upon their arrival in Halifax scores of passengers who had been saved told stories of terrible panic and cruelty on the part of the crew, but it is now known that these were largely exaggerated. With a few exceptions, Capt. Deloncle's men behaved well, and the captain, a true hero, remained on the bridge and went down with the ship.

### THE PASSING DAY

HOME SECRETARY McKENNA FIFTY-ONE TODAY  
Home secretary sounds like a nice, soft, domestic sort of job. By association of ideas, one's mental picture of a home secretary is of an easy-going, plump, pater-familias person. As a matter of fact, the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, home secretary in the British cabinet, holds what is perhaps the most difficult job in the world. The Rt. Hon. Reginald will pass his fifty-first birthday today, but he wears the worn and haggard look of one twice his years. And small wonder, for his principal duty is to attempt to placate the suffragettes. Compared with such a job as that, a lion-tamer has a soft snap, and doubtless if any trainer of ferocious wild beasts wants to trade jobs with the Rt. Hon. Reginald, he will find that gentleman not only willing but eager to make the change. Probably the home secretary often longs for a return of those quiet days when he was first lord of the admiralty.

If the home secretary, in his dealings with the "wild women," has ever succeeded in pleasing anybody, that satisfied person has remained very quiet about it. Press, pulpit and public have stormed and railed at McKenna's policies, but, strange to say, none of his critics have manifested any strong desire to undertake the job at which all are agreed, Mr. McKenna has miserably failed. If the home secretary brings stern, repressive measures to bear on the suffragettes, England sends up a wall of horror at his cruelty. Shall Englishmen witness such atrocious treatment of their women? No, a thousand times, no! On the other hand, the home secretary is too mild and considerate in his treatment of the cat and mouse act would permit them to starve, he should send soldiers to shoot them down, he should let them see that there is a man on the job.

The home secretary entertained the fond hope that his policy of mild repression under the cat and mouse act would prove effective. For a time it did seem to have a slightly deterrent effect on the turbulent spirits of "the cause," but it was but a brief period. On the very day, a few weeks ago, when the Hon. Reginald was assuring the House of Commons that the cat

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

We had fish for supper last night, wick wile we was eating it our cat jumped up awn my lap and then jumped down awn the uthir side, and its tale went rite awn the tabbl and skraped ovr the fish, the fish being a shad and the cat being a yello wun with a good disperishin, noboddy seeing him do it but me.

Ooh G, I sed.  
Ooh G, yurself, sed pop.  
Did you jest see wat the cat did, I sed.  
No, sed pop, suppose you enliten us.  
I bettir not tell you, I sed, if I told you I bet noboddy heer wood eat eny moar shad.

Then for the luv of awl the commandmnts dont tell us, sed pop.  
No, if its anything drefill, for morseya saks try to hold yure tung about it, sed ma.

I fale to see any nessessery for yure even menshinin it, sed my sistir Gladdis.

It didnt her to menshin it, as lawng as I dont tell you wat it was, I sed.

O, awl rite, sed Gladdis, let it go at that.  
He did it wen he umped up awn my lap, I sed.

Yes sir, I sed, I dont meen he did it wen he jumped up, I meen he did it wen he jumped down.

I noo you woodent be abel to shut up about it, sed Gladdis.  
Did you heer me tell you to set yure suppir, sed pop.

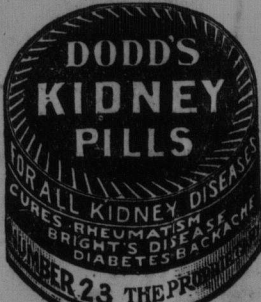
Yes, sir, I sed, he did it with his tale.  
Blast it awl, sed pop, I thawt I told you not to tell us wat he did.

Im not telling, I sed, jest saying he did it with his tale izent saying wat he did with it, but I bet if you looked at his tale now youd find sum shad gravey awn it, I bet.

Benny, sed ma, and Gladdis both togethir.  
Wun moar sillabil on you dooring the rest of the meel and you leave the tabbl, sed pop. Wich I didnt say anuthir sillabil, but noboddy asked for eny moar except me, properly awl having a slaphin wat the cat had did.

and he was succeeded by Winston Churchill and given the home secretary portfolio. At Cambridge he was a famous carman, and was bow of the variety eight in 1887, and also captured the Grand Steward's cups at the Henley regatta. With the wild women always ready to mob him the minute he sticks his nose out of doors, the home secretary probably wishes he had gone in for boxing instead of rowing.

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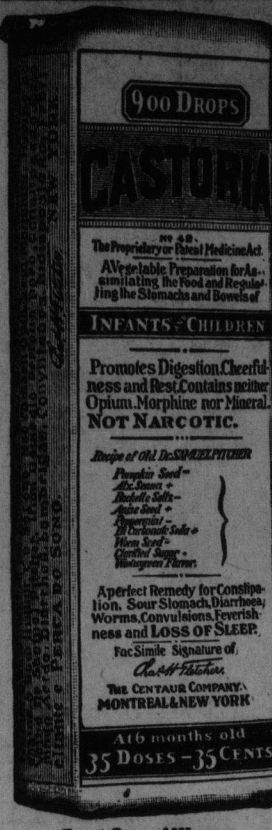
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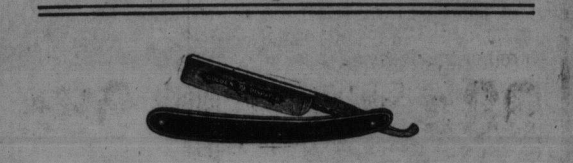
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