POOR DOCUMENT

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CARNIVAL OF VICE AND IMMORALITY."

COMMISSIONER BARRY'S REPORT ON DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION AT FREDER-ICTON; THE TELEGRAPH'S MOST SERIOUS CHARGES FULLY SUS-TAINED; VICE AND MIS-MANAGEMENT.

COMMISSIONER BARRY'S **UNSPARING CONDEMNATION.**

The evidence of many of the deaf female witnesses, if true, shows a shocking state of affairs. Not only were the grossest immoralities practiced in the school by the principal, Mr. Powers and Norman Woodbridge, but the principal and Mr. Powers appeared to keep in touch with several of the pupils after they had left the school, and continued the evil practices begun in the school itself.

As the whole of the evidence will be submitted, it would serve no useful purpose to give here in detail the evidence of the witnesses produced on this branch of the inquiry. I feel it to be my duty, however, in view of the vast amount of testimony taken, that I should give a resume of the most important parts of it. This I shall endeavor to do as succinctly and fairly as I can, dealing first with Mr. Powers, -From Commissioner Barry's Report.

ed below, with the exception of such ions of the evidence as are unfit for ions of the evidence as are unfit for ions to the evidence as are unfit for ions of the evidence as a condensed to the evidence of the e

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council, of the Province of New Brunswick. Sir,—On the 30th day of May last, I was pointed by commission under the great of the province, issued by authority the act of assembly, 49th Vic., chapter commissions under the great seal in tain cases and for certain purposes," a massioner to investigate into the ac-unts and financial position of the Frednected with the administration and duct of the affairs of said institution; I, having as best I could performed the es thus assigned me by the said com-

ble to organize the commission and ce the taking of the sworn testitime and place of meeting, together has synopsis of the charges preferred.

The Telegraph Publishing Company, out its manager Mr. C. J. Miligary of rough its manager, Mr. C. J. Miligan, of John, and upon which as I understoo intenant-governor in council decided was given to the following persons: Woodbridge, Esq., the principal of titution; the Rev. Dr. Roberts, sectary of the managing committee; Geo. Babbitt, Esq., deputy receiver general, d James S. Besk, Esq., auditor-general.

THE CHARGES.

ent of the charges without th

of the institution for the past five shows discrepencies in the total re-between the itemized statement of ions and the balance sheet nting to some five thousand nine red collars (\$5,900), while for the five previous to 1896, these discrepencies need to only about one-half that t. If the answer to this criticism b the discrepancy occurs by reason ocst of collection of subscriptions, i ould still be necessary for the great

The report of Commissioner Barry upon a from the itemized statement, the net subsections taken from the balance sheet of the officials of the Fredericton In the same year, and the resulting discrep scriptions taken from the balance sheet of the same year, and the resulting discrep-ancy. It is a curious coincidence that the balance debit or credit of the institution the same year, and the resulting discrepancy it the same year, and the resulting discrepancy in the Education of the Deal ancy. It is a curious coincidence that the discrepancy with the institution in no year amounts to over \$100.00, and the discrepancy would seem from the reports to be varied to suit the state of the to be varied to suit the state of the finances. The year 1899, in which the debit balance is greatest, \$85.13, the discrepancy in the accounts is the largest. The auditor's report, included in the published report of 1901, shows a curious state of divided responsibility for the financial affairs of the institution. We ap-

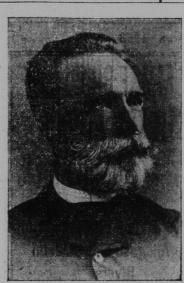
able to compose sentences either in writing or by aid of the deaf and dumb alphabet.

It has been charged that the matron o the institution is very harsh and violent in her treatment of the pupils, making them work very hard, and often beating them for no cause whatever. Instances beating of pupils, the parties interfering nave been assaulted, knocked down and

ion, and members of the family of the principal, have been guilty of improper conduct with the female pupils, and have used them for immoral purposes; that several instances of betrayal and seduction of the female pupils by those connected with the institution can be pointed out

At the opening of the commission, both sides were notified that the scope of the nissioner would examine under oath all vitnesses brought forward by either side and take their evidence, and also the evi dence of any witnesses voluntarily coming forward, or whose names might be handed in by reliable parties.

terpreter of the deaf witnesses, and then the examination of these witnesses was taken up and continued until all who presented themselves had been examined. Before the taking of the sworn testing accounts, and the public accounts, and the public accounts. would still be necessary for the great the first was not say that the mount of this discreption in the amount of this discreption in different years, and for the waste-olicy of expending so large a proportion of the public subscriptions in the mercoling of the same. This cost of cological states of the same. This cost of cological states of the same. This cost of cological states of the report of 1900. This red with a total subscription list of 1.16, leaving a net subscription in of \$2.614.40, which means that the of collecting that year was almost 36 ant. of the total sum collected. To this variation of amounts of discreptions as taken invested his own money in it, and as proportion in the mercolic proportion in the mercolic proportion in the public subscription in the public subscription in the mercolic proportion in the public subscription in the mercolic proportion in the public subscription in the public subscription in the public subscription was urged by Mr. Gregory, K. C., who appeared in behalf of the committee's report; he did not approve of having them in one account. As a committee, they did not approve of Mr. Woodbridge's books or papers. The institution was, said Mr. Chestnut the government grants and county school funds; they did not think this was an ideal plan, but it seemed the total subscriptions as taken invested his own money in it, and as published







A. F. Woodbridge, who was principal of Mrs. Woodbridge, who was matron. G. E. Powers, who was assistant superin

These Were the Officials of the Deaf and Dumb Institution.

sumed all responsibility, and it had been so carried on to this day. The government had, it is true, given it a grant, and it would be quite proper for them to investigate the manner in which that grant had been expended, but the act did not contemplate an inquiry into the private affairs of Mr. Woodbridge; the public moneys were paid into the hands of the treasurer, and disbursed by him, and the books kept by Mr. Woodbridge were his own private books. Again, at a later own private books. Again, at a later for the committee against the examination of the institution books kept by Mr. Woodbridge, as distinguished from those kept by Mr. Chestnut, the treasurer of the institution.

The view put forward by Mr. Phinney, K. C., counsel for The Telegraph Com-pany, was that the commissioner had bursement of funds of the institution, and whether these funds were what were

FINANCIAL FEATURES.

The Mix-up of the Institution's Accounts With Those of Principal Woodbridge. The revenues of the institution seem to

to \$2,210.55, and we are informed, largely if not entirely refer to salaries, etc., paid to the principal and members of his family.

Educational Results Lacking.

It is charged that the pupils of the institution are taught little or nothing. This would seem to be borne out by the instances of pupils being for years at the institution, and who are practically as devoid of education as when they entered it. A female pupil who has been eight years in the institution, is today practically devoid of education. She cannot be communicated with except by signs, and is unable to compose sentences either in writing or by aid of the deaf and dumb alphabet.

No cash book was kept by the principal of thest principal of the institution. It is true that in each year's report a statement of receipts and expenditures, which was called a balance sheet, was printed for distribution, but so far as I could gather, this balance sheet had no relation to the books. There was no set of figures in any of the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a balance sheet in the more pains to look into the principal of the institution. It is true that in each year's report a statement of receipts and expenditures, which was called a balance sheet, was printed for distribution, but so far as I could gather, this balance sheet had no relation to the books. There was no set of figures in any of the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a balance sheet had no relation to the books. There was no set of figures in any of the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a balance sheet had no relation to the books. There was no set of figures in any of the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a balance sheet had no relation to the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a balance sheet had no relation to the books, or in all of them together, from which an accountant could produce a b Woodbridge withdrawing it tomorrow, and the treasurer had no further check or con-trol of it. This system, Mr. Chestnut ad-mitted was a bad one, and one which he had endeavored from time to time to rectify. And those of the managing com forward, or whose names might be handed in by reliable parties.

WOODBRIDGE'S BOOKS.

A Controversy Which Arose in the Early Stages of the Inquiry.

The financial charges were first taken up and proceeded with until the arrival of the gentleman who acted as sworn interpreter of the deaf witnesses, and then

tify. And those of the managing committee who gave evidence on the inquiry seemed to hold views similar to those of Mr. Chestnut. Thus J. W. Spurden who, since the death of the late Sir John C. Allen, had been the chairman of the board of management, said that he, as a member of the committee, considered that they assumed no financial responsibility for the debts of the institution. Purchases were not made in the name of the committee, responsible. The committee were not

power to investigate everything in connection with the institution. A prima facie case had been made out sufficient to justify the government in ordering the inquiry; the funds collected from the public for the institution were not Mr. Woodbridge's private property, but were subscribed to the Deaf and Dumb Institution, and the books, and vouchers which Mr. Woodbridge had produced were the books. Woodbridge had produced were the books and vouchers of the institution. This view seemed to the commissioner the corresponding to the time to come when a different system would be brought act the idea of the institution was like this: That in the first instance, the institution was regarded as Mr. Woodbridge's, and largely a private institution, partly public and partly private, The auditor's report, included in the purblished report of 1901, shows a curious state of divided responsibility for the financial affairs of the institution. We append a copy of the auditor's report hereto, marked "B." For this same year, 1899, the items of expenditure set down to "salaries," "wages of workmen," and "wages of domestics," amounts altogether to \$2,210.55, and we are informed, largely if not entirely refer to salaries, etc., paid to fine institution seem to have been derived from five sources, namely, rents of cottages, etc., payments by parents, government grants, county grants and subscriptions; the last named source of revenue being by far the most productive one. While it is a somewhat easy task to state exactly the sources of the revenues of the school, it is by no means equally easy to say just what has become of those revenues and took a little more pains to look into things. Some member of the committee mentioned to me every now and then that see things in a better way. I thought all the money ought to pass through the treas-urer's hands, but until we of the commit-

one at all familiar with that gentleman's careful and methodical habits, Mr. Chest-of management, says the board assumed no nut produced vouchers for every dollar of the moneys that came to his hands, and the moneys that came to his hands, and ancial affairs of the institution. We fre the moneys that came to his hands, and his cash book was found to have been kept in a careful and business-like way and regularly balanced at stated intervals. Besides these public moneys, there were some trifling amounts, rents, paid the treasurer by Mr. Woodbridge, covering several years, and he also received two bequests made to the institution; in 1891, the payments made by Mr. Woodbridge to the treasurer, covering rents, were for some reason or other discontinued. But so far as the security of the funds of the institution was concerned, there might just as well have been no treasurer. Mr. Woodbridge had a free hand to draw as much money as he wished, and to draw it when he wished. All the treasurer was required to have as an authorization to him for the payment of moneys of the institution in his hands, was an order or ancial affairs of the institution. We fre ancial affairs of the institution. We frequently consulted with Mr. Woodbridge on matters affecting the welfare of the init when he wished. All the treasurer was required to have as an authorization to him for the payment of moneys of the institution in his hands, was an order or receipt signed by the principal. And, as Mr. Chestnut says in his evidence, if a thousand dollars were paid into his hands today, there was nothing to prevent Mr. We divide withdrawing it tomogray and as follows:

1	as follows:	
1	1883-Account of maintenance	\$1,0
3	1884-Account of maintenance	1,0
9	1885-Account of maintenance	1,5
	1886-Account of maintenance	1,5
4	1887-Account of maintenance	1,5
	1888-Account of maintenance	1,5
	1888-Account of building	1,0
,	1889 Account of maintenance	1,5
i	1889-Account of building	1,0
	1890-Account of maintenance	1,5
7	1890-Account of building	1,0
e	1891-Account of maintenance	1,5
e	1891-Account of building	1,0
3	1892-Account of maintenance	1,5
1	1892-Account of building	1,0
t	1893-Account of building	1,0
3	1894—Special grant	5
9	1894—Account of building	1,0
8	1895—Special grant	5
9	1895-Account of building	1,0
e	1896—Special grant	5
f	1896-Account of building	1,0
	1897—Special grant.;	5
ă	1897-Account of building	1,0
88	1898 Special grant	5
,	1898 Account of building	
t	1899 Special grant	5
	1900-Account of building	2,0
,	1900-Special grant	5
n	1901—Special grant	5
7	_	

and \$13,000 on account of the building fund. Of this \$13,000 the institution received \$2,000 before the government guaranteed it an annual sum of \$1,000 for 11 years, upon which guarantee the instituion, in January, 1889, borrowed the sum of \$7.440, the money being required for the purpose of erecting a building. This board of the institution, with the approva of the government of New Brunswick was eventually wiped

11 annual grants of \$1,000 each. The bank ing progressed paid \$376.71 interest on the monthly balances, so that the institution received \$7.816.71 of the \$11,000 guarantee,

he institution r	eceived the	following
		4
ending Dec. 31,	1892	\$ 586.46
	, 1893	
" Dec. 31	1893	543.42
" June 30	, 1894	630.00
" Den 31	, 1894	
" June 30	, 1895	
" Dec. 31	, 1895	
. " June 30	, 1896	1,005.00
" Dec. 31	, 1896	813.44
" June 30	, 1897	810.00
	, 1897	. 672.97
" June 30	, 1898	. 1,013.53
" Dec. 31	, 1898	657.52
June 30), 1899	. 895.99
" Dec. 31	, 1899 , 1900	. 787.37
	, 1900	
" June 30), 1901	. 810.00
" Dec. 31	, 1901	. 711.61
	1	\$14.799.01

drafts upon the counties were issued, where the institution had been receiving these county payments for pupils over the statutory ages; this was brought about, whether intentionally or not I do not say, by understating the ages of pupils in the reports furnished the department. Mr. reports furnished the department. Mr. Woodbridge explained this by saying that he felt it his duty at the time of making the returns to insert the names of all pupils attending the school. While Doctor Inch, chief superintendent of education, thought also that this rule might be a good one, he strongly objected to the manner in which the reports had been

FINANCIAL DISCREPANCIES.

Apparent Yearly Shortage .-- How Woodbridge Accounted for It.

The most serious of the charges of financial mismanagement were made in connec-tion with the receipts and subscriptions collections from the general public. This source of revenue was controlled entirely by Mr. Woodbridge and his collectors. At the end of each annual report of the institution is published an itemized state-

palance shee	et the	following	discrepance
appear:-			
Year.			Shorta
884			\$ 156
885			743
886			
887			
888			134
889			
890			435
892			
893			885
894			565
895			588
896			
897			1.304
898			
1899			
900			1.176
1901			

CONDITIONS. received. While to Mr. Woodbridge this | ton is \$4,650; its calcable va'ue would probmay be a satisfactory way of accounting ably exceed that sum. for these discrepancies, I think to any one

who has even the most superficial knowledge of accounts, it must look both unbusiness-like and unsatisfactory. One would have thought that, in order to guard against the possibility of a suspic-ion, the proper course to have adopted would have been to credit the gross subcriptions and charge the collection curred and paid. But this was not don

SCANDALOUS

any reasonable man's mind doubts as to whether Mr. Woodbridge's explanations of the deficiencies were the true reason.

"A HOPELESS MUDDLE."

This the Commissioner's Remark About Accounts of the Institution.

be in such a hopeless muddle that no ject, and these opinions, my own being satisfactory progress could be made. At the time of the destruction by fire of the Rev. G. M. Compbell. new building on Hawthorne Hill, on the 23rd of September, 1897, most of the books Mr. Woodbridge told us, were destroyed. So that no records of an earlier date were he had a right to regard the institution as the manner in which they were found. kept." the manner in which they were found. He, or some one belong ng to him, owns a farm, which was worked in connection with the institution, some of the older boy pupils furnishing part of the labor, and while it was stated that the entire produce of the farm went into the maintenance of the calculation of the calculati duce of the farm went into the maintenance of the school, which statement I do not doubt, no account was kept of the cost of labor and maintenance, or of the profits accruing from the farm. All servants' and laborers' wages, the cost of horses, harness, farming implements, etc., were paid by institution funds, and my own opinion was that after giving credit for all that the farm produced, a considerable sum of money must have been sunk in this way. Again, in the matter of merchants and tradesmen's accounts paid by abuses; and a cursory examination of quite a number of receipted accounts leads me to the opinion that not a few of Mr. Woodbridge's and his family's private ac-13 counts were paid by the funds of the 98 institution in this way; that is, if the in-29 with the responsibility resting up n some 64 one to account to the public for all moneys 77 received and disbursed on its account,

stated, it is impossible to say to what ex-There were some assets admitted as be 1896—Account of building. 1,000
1897—Account of building 1,000
1898—Account of building 1,000
1899—Special grant 500
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 3,000
1890—Special grant 500
1890—Special grant 500
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 3,000
1890—Account of building 4,000
1890—Account of building 500
1890—Account of building 500
1890—Account of building 6,000
1890—Account of building 1,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 1,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 3,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 3,000
1890—Account of building 2,000
1890—Account of building 3,000
1890—Account of building 3, \$11,778.94 why they should be considered as public

31 then, I say, accounts not properly charge .78 able against it were paid by institution .02 funds, and I think that Mr. Woodbridge's

PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY

PRINCIPAL WOODBRIDGE, G. E. POWERS

AND NORMAN WOODBRIDGE; FEMALE

PUPILS, NATURE'S AFFLICTED,

TELL OF REVOLTING

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES.

Commission Quotes Opinions of Gentlemen
Who Speak Authoritatively.

Having had no opportunity of co monthly balances, so that the institution received \$7.816.71 of the \$11,000 guarantee, the balance being diverted to the payment of interest on the loan made by the governing board.

Counties Taxed for Institution's Support.

In 1892 an act was passed bringing the pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institution under the provisions of the common schools act, and a per capita tax of \$30 for the number of pupils attending the school was thereafter paid by the respective counties from which the pupils came. Under this act the institution received the following act the institution received \$1.816.71 of the \$11,000 guarantee, the balance being diverted to the payment of the shortages appear just the commissions, the shortages appear just the same. The system which prevailed was for the collectors to return their books, same. The system which prevailed was for the collectors to return their books, same. The system which prevailed was for the collectors to return their books, while he hand in hand, while many of the younger pupils of the Fredericton school; and while many of the younger was prevered to the whole while many of the younger just the same. The system whic integrity of the gentlemen who acted as their opinions and giving facts, both by collectors. The great variance between the amounts of the discrepancies in the different years—take for instance \$94.16 in 1887 and \$1,475.80 in 1889, and although the subscriptions in the latter year were three times as great as in the former—would be sufficient, I think, to raise in would be sufficient, I think, to raise in the sufficient that the sufficient is sufficient. disposal, would not permit of a lengthened examination into the attainments of the pupils in such branches as arithmetic, geography, history, natural history, composi-tion and kindred subjects which I believe ever, able to obtain the opinions of several gentlemen—three of whom have been con-nected with educational institutions—who might be expected to be fairly well qualif expenditure, the accounts were found to fied to speak authoritatively on this sub-

Rev. G. M. Campbell said of the only some of the work was very excellent in-deed, and for one who knew nothing about ings of the committee of management. But the books since that date give no real information. If, as Mr. Woodbr dge claimed, was not so good. I appreciate the difficult a private enterprise or commercial venture ties that would gather about a school of of his own, then, perhaps, it was no one's that sort; and yet they were there in a business that the accounts were kept in of them might have been a little better

Abel S. Clark, M. A., of the Hartford (Conn.) school for the deaf, who said he dean, school for the deaf, who said he had been a teacher of the deaf for 35 years, stated as follows:—

Q. You have seen the pupils of this school here and have heard from them the number of years they have been in attend-

dance, and have examined them personally and have talked with them. What would you say as to the results of the training they have received, speaking generally? A.—I have felt that in so far as I could judge the native ability of these children, they will average perhaps ahead by Mr. Woodbridge and his collectors. At the end of each annual report of the institution is published an itemized statement of the collections received on accounts of the school, and in the so-called "balance sheet" published in the same report is a statement in gross of the same collections. By carefully adding the former, year by year, and comparing the results with the amounts as credited in the balance sheet the following discrepancies appear:

Shortage.

Shortage.

Shortage.

Shortage.

Shortage.

Shortage.

Shortage.

Chants and tradesmen's accounts paid by school funds, it was impossible to distinguish between what might be said to be private accounts and school accounts. All seem to have been paid in a free and easy indiscriminate sort of way, either by order on the treasurer had no check whatever upon Mr. Woodbridge's orders; the accounts were not audited or ordered to be paid by anyone excepting by Mr. Woodbridge himself. That was the system; a system that left room for many abuses; and a cursory examination of quite is in our school. is in our school.
Q.—That would be in the case of gradu-

A .- Not necessarily; children who have to general knowledge of history or geo-graphy and things of that sort—their ability to understand things that are going on, and the news of the day. I simply speak as to their range of language, and I have felt that they were backward in Q.—Is it correct that the single hand

102 funds, and I tilling that 31. The day of the case own testimony will indisputably show this 27 to be the case. But for reasons already alphabet is entirely in use in the United

> A.-So far as I know. Q.-Do you use the other for element-