

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1912.

## MR. PUGSLEY'S MISREPRESENTATIONS.

Mr. Pugsley has given the Telegraph another interview in which he attacks the general policy of the Provincial Government and then tries to explain his position relative to the Valley Railway. Regarding his attitude on this important question Mr. Pugsley's interview is remarkable for some glaring omissions, while some of his statements lack accuracy.

Mr. Pugsley says: "It is true that I and my colleague from New Brunswick firmly declined so far as the Federal Government and Parliament were concerned, to 'contemplate an agreement which a second trolley railway could have been built beginning at some point on the C. P. R. in the parish of Andover and terminating at another point on the C. P. R., thus making the road a branch of that railway and depriving the people of the St. John Valley of the competition which they so earnestly desired. By our determined attitude the Provincial Government was compelled to agree to the construction of a first class line of railway to be built all the way from St. John to Grand Falls."

Mr. Pugsley has always posed before the people as friendly to the construction of the Valley Railway, while all the time he and his colleagues at Ottawa were doing everything in their power to prevent the road being built. While criticising Mr. Fleming Mr. Pugsley does not explain why he turned down the delegation that went to Ottawa at the suggestion of Mr. Hazen to ask for the construction of the Valley Railway. That delegation asked that the road be operated as a part of the Intercolonial system. The route they wanted the road to follow was precisely the route that Mr. Pugsley had adopted in the legislation he passed through the Local Legislature in 1907.

The delegation met Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Pugsley, representing the Dominion Government, with the distinct promise from Mr. Hazen that the Province of New Brunswick would guarantee the bonds of the company building the road, provided the Government of Canada would guarantee to operate it and pay the Province 40 per cent. of the gross income as rental. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised an immediate answer. No answer was received from Sir Wilfrid, but Mr. Carvell wired Mayor Chestnut a day or two before the House of Assembly pronounced that the Dominion Government could not act upon the delegates' suggestion until further information had been obtained. This was the first excuse. The second was put forward when Mr. Hazen suggested a conference on the question during recess. The answer of Mr. Pugsley then was that too many of the Dominion Cabinet were out of Ottawa to make such a conference possible.

Mr. Pugsley's next move was to write a letter imposing a specification for the construction of the railway that he well knew no contractor could or would accept. This specification was also adopted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

All of these things happened before the Provincial Government had passed any legislation respecting the Valley Railway. When the legislation was presented it provided for the construction of a railway under the specification submitted by Mr. Pugsley and required the road to be operated as a part of the Intercolonial system. This specification was made a part of the act as both Mr. Pugsley and Sir Wilfrid Laurier had stated that it was the only specification the Government of Canada would accept.

The third part of the act provided for the construction of a railway under a specification that required a road equal in every way to the Intercolonial to be operated by a private company. This alternative proposition was placed in the act to secure the construction of the railway which the Government of New Brunswick believed was in the best interests of the Province. A company was found willing to build the road under this section of the act provided the Dominion subsidy of \$6,400 a mile was secured.

In the meantime, after two years of consideration and delay, a resolution was passed in the House of Commons authorizing the Government of Canada to lease the Valley Railway and operate it as a part of the Intercolonial, as originally suggested by Mr. Hazen. This legislation was hurried through Parliament with the hope that it would influence the bye-election in York. Mr. Carvell spent three weeks trying to convince the electors of York that Mr. Pugsley and himself were sincere, but he failed in the attempt. Therefore, when the delegation from the New Brunswick Government went to Ottawa they were told that the Dominion Government would only pay the subsidy provided the railroad was to be operated as a part of the Intercolonial.

Subsequently at a conference suggested by Mr. Fleming, not by Mr. Pugsley, that gentleman agreed to modify the specification and the necessity of proceeding under the alternative plan no longer existed. The Government of New Brunswick were never opposed to Intercolonial operation and it does not lie in the power of Mr. Pugsley to prove that they were. Besides, Mr. Pugsley is wrong when he says that the road the Government of New Brunswick wanted subsidized was a "trolley" line. It was for a steam railway the subsidy was asked. This fact Mr. Pugsley knew quite well when he refused.

These are the plain unvarnished facts concerning the Valley Railway. Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Carvell did everything that lay in their power to prevent its construction until they both saw that further opposition would place them in a most unfavorable light in the coming Dominion elections. Then Mr. Pugsley weakened and was ready to confer, but the best arrangement he proposed was much less favorable to the Province than that finally obtained by Mr. Fleming from the Borden Government. The people of the St. John Valley have only Mr. Fleming to thank for the railway. He secured it for them in spite of the opposition of Mr. Pugsley and he was fully justified in the statement he made to that effect in his recent manifesto to the people.

## THE GARRULOUS TIMES.

"The Times is very much annoyed at the Globe for expressing the opinion that there has really been no serious criticism of the Provincial Government by the Opposition, which it says 'has been limited to comparatively indefinite matters.'"

Everyone who has followed the debates in the Legislature during the past session will concur in the opinion expressed by the Globe. Mr. Copp occupied a portion of four days in replying to the Provincial Secretary, but his speech dealt in generalities only. He was unable to show where the Government had spent a single dollar that was

not properly vouched for. He could not point to a single bridge that should not have been built or repaired. He was unable to disprove the statement that the work done on the bridges and wharves was of a much more permanent character than that done by the old Government. His criticism of the educational policy of the Government was barren, and the same may be said of his remarks concerning agriculture. It was not a speech that would attract more than passing notice and was really an endorsement of the Government's policy on many important points.

In the face of such a speech from the Leader of the Opposition, when he was face to face with his opponents, where any statement not in accordance with the facts might be challenged and disproved, it is most amusing to read the indictment of the Government in the Times in reply to the Globe. These are the things which the Times charges the Globe with overlooking:

"The increase in the Provincial debt, the deficit of last year, the depletion of the Crown lands by destruction of under-sized timber, the diversion of money which should go to public services to the pockets of political partisans, the Government's shameful disregard of the avowed purpose of its own audit act—all these things are 'indefinite' as they are."

With the exception of about \$150,000 for permanent bridges there has been no increase in the public debt as the result of the legislation of the present Government. Had the old Government honestly collected the revenue of the Province and spent it to keep the bridges of the country in repair there would have been no over-expenditure last year, and the present Government could have built every permanent bridge constructed since they came into power out of current revenue.

The statement that the present Government have permitted the cutting of under-sized lumber is untrue. It was Mr. Sweeney, the last Surveyor General of the Province, who permitted it, as is shown by the report of Col. Loggie in 1907. The present Government have enforced the regulations and in doing so have penalized Mr. Burchill and many others who violated the regulations of the Department.

As for diversion of public money into the pockets of political partisans this statement can only be classed as a falsehood, and the same may be said of the statement concerning the Audit Act. The statements of the Times are not only indefinite but untrue and without the slightest foundation in fact. The statement of the Globe regarding the Opposition which has so irritated the Times was thoroughly justified.

## "THE GRIZZLED WARRIOR FROM QUEEN'S CO."

The preliminaries for a general election, Federal or Provincial, would not be complete without a final word, a forecast, from Senator King. "The grizzled warrior from Queen's County," as the Telegraph rather pointedly describes him, has now been heard from. He has aired up the situation. A reporter for the Telegraph, with bated breath, "jotted down the supporters of Mr. Copp as the Senator predicted their election." The result gives "a majority of ten for the Liberal leader." It is unfortunate, but none the less true, that experience of the Senator's prevision in the past has placed his prophetic powers rather at a discount. We recall that shortly before the general election last year he ventured a prophecy. To his far-seeing eye there was only one party in sight. Returning from the Pacific coast he predicted a clean sweep for the Liberals and handed out what the Telegraph picturesquely described as "some nuts which the Conservatives will find it difficult to crack." The Senator from Queen's is much given to dreaming dreams and, as we know, dreams go by contraries.

It would have been much more to the purpose if in the report of the Senator's latest glimpse into the future we had been given some details of his prognostications. The names of the Opposition candidates who will eventually cluster around Mr. Copp and comprise the majority of ten would be of interest, and to no one more so than to Mr. Copp himself who, by common report, is just now at his wits end to secure enough victims to lead the forlorn hope. Why did the Telegraph suppress the names of Mr. Copp's supporters when they were "jotted down" as the Senator predicted their election?

In the light of his record in the Senate during the last session of Parliament it is perhaps as well for "the grizzled warrior from Queen's County" that he is safely housed and, unlike his friend Mr. Copp, can escape the vengeance of the people of this Province. It was Senator King of New Brunswick who seconded the amendment in the Senate which killed the Borden Government's bill to give aid to the highways. Through him and others like him who meekly obey the orders of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, New Brunswick loses the benefit of \$50,000 of Federal money which would otherwise have been available this summer to improve the roads. A Senator owes a duty to the Province he represents even though his position enables him to escape responsibility.

## THE CHARLOTTE NOMINATION.

The convention of supporters of the Local Government in Charlotte not only renominated the former representatives of the county but passed a strong vote of confidence in Premier Fleming and the members of his Administration for the manner in which the business of the Province has been conducted during the past four years. Charlotte is well represented in the Legislature. Attorney General Grimmer is recognized as one of the ablest men in the Cabinet. As Surveyor General in Mr. Hazen's Administration he completely reorganized the Crown Land Department and was successful in greatly increasing the territorial revenue of the Province during his term of office.

The Crown Land Department under the old Government was not well managed, and Mr. Grimmer experienced no easy task to bring order out of chaos. The Province is much the better off for having had a man possessing the sterling qualities of Mr. Grimmer at the head of the chief revenue producing department. Only a strong man could do what Mr. Grimmer has done. He has really established the value of the Public Domain and set a pace in revenue collecting which future Surveyors General must live up to. Mr. Grimmer's large collections from stumpage have given the people a comprehensive idea of the losses the Province has suffered through the favoritism shown certain operators by the old Government in return for political favors.

Mr. Clark always enjoyed the reputation of being one of the ablest men on the floors of the House. He is a good debater and while election as Speaker, an office he has filled for three years with honor to himself and satisfaction to both sides of the House, has removed him from the debates, he has lost none of his old time ability in that line.

Dr. Taylor who represents the Eastern end of the county is one of the most popular and useful members of the Assembly and a good representative for Charlotte. Mr. Gupill had the distinction of being the youngest member of the last House, and while he only occupied his seat during the session just closed, he acquitted himself well and has gained an experience which will be of much assistance to him in the future.

The Charlotte representatives did credit to themselves and their country in the last House and will do the same in the next. Up to the present there are no signs of Opposition candidates in this county and there are rumors that Mr. Copp is having the gravest kind of difficulty in finding any of the Charlotte stalwarts willing to sacrifice themselves for his benefit.

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His Opinion.  
Mrs. Mulchey—What frind helped ye home, ye drunken baste?  
Mulchey—Faith, it no frind he was, knowin' the rascally old reeve.

Her Theory.  
And do you understand? asked the Sunday school teacher, why you pray for your daily bread?  
Oh, yes, replied little Margie, that's so we'll be sure to have it fresh.

Sure Sign of Love.  
Does he love her?  
Does he love her? I think he does. He's promised to march with her in the suffragette parade.

Is It Also Good on Prunes?  
The Boston Globe and the Manchester Union are setting forth the delectable qualities of strawberries in their respective states. The Boston paper advocates the picking of perfect specimens from a strawberry bed washing the sand off in a glass of fine champagne, and sprinkling with powdered sugar, while the New Hampshire paper claims the berries in its State contain all these qualities in themselves. Of course Vermont has no berries to brag about just now, but we have found that a very pleasant way to treat our imported berries is to wash them in pure Vermont spring water and then pour enough pure Vermont maple syrup over them to take the taste of any other State all out of them. Suppose you try this Vermont method and get something worth eating.—St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

WEDDINGS  
Foster-Prink.

St. John's (Stone) church was the scene of a happy event yesterday afternoon, when William D. Foster, of the insurance firm of Machum and Foster, and one of the best known of the younger business men of St. John, was united in marriage with Miss Myra H. Prink, daughter of His Worship Mayor Prink. The ceremony was performed by Rev. G. A. Kurling, rector, and only immediate relatives of the contracting parties were present. The bride, who wore a beautiful traveling costume, was attended. Harold Ellis was groomsmen. Mr. and Mrs. Foster left by last evening's train on honeymoon trip to Boston and New York and will carry with them the best wishes of many friends, for both are popular. On their return home they will take up their residence for the summer at Duck Cove.

THE GREAT HALL WAS FILLED WITH APPLAUSE WHEN THE SPEAKER SAID THE FOLLOWING: "J. R. MORGAN CAN RAISE \$10,000,000 ON HIS CHECK ANY MINUTE, BUT THE MAN WHO IS RAISING A LARGE FAMILY ON \$10 A WEEK IS A GREATER FINANCIER THAN MORGAN."

LET HIM TALK!

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## GERMANS IN AFRICA ARE DRUNKARDS

Reichstag Hears of Dissipation of Officials in Colonial Service - Measures for Suppression of Slavery.

Berlin, May 28.—The discussion in the Reichstag of the colonial budget brought out interesting remarks about excessive drinking in the colonies, as well as about household slavery in German East Africa. From the speeches of several members it appears that the German officials and the few Germans in the colonies are very heavy drinkers.

Dr. Flaxsche, first vice-president of the Reichstag, who has himself travelled in the colonies, said: "Our high officials are still compelled, as it were, to invest a large part of their income in alcohol, both in South-west and in East Africa. A high official must drink up nearly \$600, and the medium and lower class officials correspondingly. They must put the half of their incomes into alcohol."

Herr Davidson, a Socialist member, claimed that drinking went to far greater excesses with the whites than with the natives, so that it was common among the negroes to say of one of their number when found dead drunk that he "is as drunk as a white man."

Herr Noske, another Socialist, said Southwest Africa was the most drunken of all the colonies. After the Reichstag there availed themselves of every occasion to hold great drinking bouts. A member of one of the small anti-Semitic parties finally offered a resolution asking the government to restrict as far as possible the import of alcohol into the colonies for the use of the natives, but upon motion of the Socialists the reference to the natives was dropped, and the resolution adopted in the most general terms. Another resolution was adopted asking the government to use its influence to have the Brussels Congress called together again to adopt more restrictive measures against the sale of alcohol in Africa.

Members also favored fixing a date for the abolition of household slavery among the native population of East Africa. Dr. Solf, the new Colonial Secretary, however, expressed doubt as to whether it would be feasible to fix upon a specific period for its abolition. The government he said, was doing all in its power to restrict the evil, but it needed further time before it could say whether it would be practicable to fix a date for its abolition. He declared, too, that slavery in Africa was not really so bad as Germans at home imagined.

The recent discussion of duelling in the Reichstag will appear to lead to a strong effort on the part of that body to take some action looking toward abolishing or further restricting the evil. In fact, after the Prussian War Minister, General von Heeringen, said in the Reichstag that an officer who refused to fight a duel from religious convictions "does not belong in the social circle of the officers' corps," the Clerical Party a few days later made a formal and energetic protest through its leader, Dr. Spahn, against this utterance. He argued that the Minister of War placed himself and the entire officers' corps outside of the law through this remark, since both the civil code and the military penal code forbade duelling. Dr. Spahn called attention to the fact that the minister would exclude from the army all officers who respect and obey the laws and said that the matter would be further discussed in committee.

The minister evidently saw that he had gone too far, and at the opening of the next session of the budget committee he made a formal statement designed to break the force of his declaration. He expressed his regret that in the excitement of the moment he had given his view a sharp form unintended by him. This, he said, had led to misconception, inasmuch as he had never intended to represent a man who opposes duelling out of pure and noble motives as being less worthy than others. Nevertheless, the minister again, in restating his position, asserted in most positive form that "officers who in certain cases refuse to fight a duel place themselves in sharp antagonism to the fundamental convictions of their comrades as cannot be tolerated." This was pointed out by various newspapers, was but to reassert in other words what he had said before.

The declaration of Dr. Spahn has attracted much attention in army circles, and many officers have written to members of the Reichstag to express their hope that compulsory duelling be abolished; a meeting of officers held at Berlin took a similar attitude. It is even asserted by newspapers supporting the anti-duelling cause that a majority of German officers are secretly opposed to the duel, but only acquiesce in it because the dominant circles of the army maintain it. Meanwhile the Clerical party has brought forward a motion demanding that compulsory duelling be abolished, and it appears highly probable that this motion will secure a majority in the Reichstag.

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All friends and supporters in Queens County of the Provincial Administration are respectfully requested to meet at the Court House, Gagetown, at 2 p. m., Monday, June 3rd, 1912, for the purpose of selecting two candidates to contest the County in the approaching general election.

Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier and Surveyor will address the convention.

May 27th, 1912.

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