

MEETING OVER PAVING PROVES SPIRITED ONE

Bribery Charged and Denied
and Suit Threatened at
Fairville Session.

Charges of attempted bribery in connection with the awarding a paving contract in Lancaster, were made last evening at the meeting in Temperance Hall, Fairville, and denied. The charges brought out a threat that a suit for libel would be started. A statement of Councillor Campbell that he had been after his colleagues for the last four years but was now satisfied they were men of honesty and he was proud to work with them, was a feature of the meeting. The hall was crowded. Robert Catherwood presided.

Vote of Confidence
Before adjournment 400 ratepayers passed a vote of confidence in the councillors, the Highway Board and the Provincial Government. There were some dissenters, but when they were invited to take the floor and state their objections they failed to go forward.

He said that the meeting had been called by Thomas Stephen, for the purpose of finding out why the tender of the Stephen Construction Company for the Lancaster paving job had been returned unopened by the Highway Board, and the contract awarded to the Maritime Construction Company, whose tender, about \$26,500, was \$10,000 more than the Stephen tender. Hayden McCurdy, book-keeper for the Stephen Company, put the case for the company in much the same terms as the chairman. He said that the company had protested in the public press against the action of the Highway Board and that, as they had received no explanation through the press

from the board, they had arranged for the meeting to get that explanation, and inquire if the people of Lancaster were going to allow the action of the board to carry, whether the tender that had been accepted was \$10,000 higher than was the Stephen tender. They wanted an explanation. Considerable applause followed the conclusion of his remarks.

Thomas Stephen, in denying that he had made the alleged offer to Mr. O'Brien, asked how it was that he could offer a \$6,000 bribe, when he figured at only \$16,000 for the job.

Says Two in Firm.

He said that he would not have very much left out of the full tender if he had given the \$6,000 to Mr. O'Brien. Later still in the meeting, when Mr. Campbell had said that he also had been offered a bribe by a member of the Stephen Company, Mr. Stephen asked Mr. Campbell who had offered him the money. The firm consisted of his brother and himself, he said. Mr. Campbell said it was Mr. Corey who made him the offer during a conversation in front of the Opera House.

Mr. O'Brien presented the case of the Highway Board. In view of the fact that the number of automobiles in the city and county of St. John had reached 2,600, he said, he realized that the road from the bridge to Man-

Mother
need never wear a baby in advance of time if she takes Lactagol, which, by stimulating the breast glands ensures a plentiful supply of nourishing milk and so enables every mother to

Nurse Baby
at the breast without fatigue or strain. The recent great increase in the deaths of infants was mainly due to impure milk, and the remedy lies in breast feeding. Breast milk is the purest milk, and the only safe food for baby, so mother should always try Lactagol before experimenting with artificial feeds.

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cheater's Corner was not of the proper construction, and that only a paved

road would answer the purpose. In view of the fact that the automobilists of the city and county were paying so much money into the pavement treasury and that Lancaster was not getting any of it, he had taken up the matter with the Government, and they promised that in F. 1925, they would take over that section of the road from the bridge to Manchester's Corner as part of their main trunk road system. He said this offer was a free gift of the Government to the people of Fairville.

The Road to be Paved.

During the legislative session, he said, a bill had been passed authorizing the construction not only of that piece of permanent road but also along Lancaster avenue to City Line, including Prince and Duke streets and Dufferin Row. The Municipal Council had guaranteed the bonds necessary for the construction. The reason tenders had been called for only 11,000 yards of the road, was because there had to be a cross section made of every 15 feet, and it would take too long if everything was prepared before tenders were called. The employment of the highway had also entered into the situation. He wanted work for the men of Fairville.

Tenders had been received from B. Mooney & Sons; Kane & Parker; the Maritime Construction Co., and the Stephen Construction Co. At the highway board meeting he had objected to the opening of the Stephen Construction Company tender, because he did not care to deal with a dishonest party, he said. He had hoped at the time that nothing would be said about it, and that it would be dropped. Mr. O'Brien said, adding that he believed that attempted bribery disqualified a man tendering for a job. Collusion among contractors also disqualified, Mr. O'Brien said, adding that the Stephen Company tried to make advances to the Maritime Construction Company, but without result.

Alleges Bribe Offered.

Thomas Stephen had offered him \$6,000, Mr. O'Brien said, if the Stephen Company got the contract. He said that he believed that attempted bribery disqualified a man tendering for a job. Collusion among contractors also disqualified, Mr. O'Brien said, adding that the Stephen Company tried to make advances to the Maritime Construction Company, but without result.

Falling to do this, Mr. O'Brien said

Stephen had said that he would make his bid "so damned cheap that no one else would get a chance at the job."

Estimates of Cost.

G. G. Murdoch, engineer, in making up the specifications, Mr. O'Brien said, had estimated that the cost would be about \$28,000. The Maritime Construction tender was \$26,500, the Kane and Parker tender \$32,000. The Stephen tender was \$30,000 less than the lowest of the other three, Mr. O'Brien said. In view of the fact that an engineer of Mr. Murdoch's standing had estimated the cost to be \$28,000, and the three tenders, two of them long established firms, had tendered close to it, Mr. O'Brien could not reconcile the Stephen tender with the others.

Thomas Stephen, in opening his remarks, said that he was going to start action against Mr. O'Brien for libel. Mr. O'Brien interrupted, saying he would welcome the suit. Mr. Stephen went on to deny that he had made any offer to Mr. O'Brien, saying that he would give him the chance to prove his statement in the courts. As regards the Government taking over the road, Mr. Stephen said that he had gone to Fredericton and interviewed Premier Veniot, and that Premier Veniot said that the Government was not going to spend any \$60,000 (the estimated cost of the road from the bridge to Manchester's) on that road. "If Mr. Veniot is a man, he will keep his word," said Mr. Stephen.

Before Tender, Says O'Brien.

He asked how he could offer Mr. O'Brien \$6,000 on a job for which his tender was \$16,000.

Mr. O'Brien said that Mr. Stephen had offered him the bribe before he had made up his tender.

Mr. Stephen said that his firm could have carried out the contract, and produced the check for \$8,000, which went with the tender, guaranteeing the completion of the work according to specifications. In proof of the firm's ability he asked the chairman to read an article in the St. John Globe, of recent date, which spoke of the construction of the hydro distribution system and the favorable comments of the city and highway engineers on the work done.

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Show Changes Every Mon., Thurs.

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by the company. The chairman read Mr. Campbell: "There is a trail of corruption from the North Shore to St. John, but it is going to end at the other end of the bridge, for you can't bribe the councillors of Lancaster." Cheers.

Mr. Campbell said that often it had been put up to him: "You have a very nice home, Councillor O'Brien, has a very nice home. Neither of you had them before you were on the council." He did not mind saying that he had a \$4,000 mortgage on his home, he said.

THE STEEL SHAFT CLUBS BANNED

British Golf Authorities Do Not Like Innovations From Across Ocean.

London, June 25.—The acceptance of the use of steel-shafted golf clubs by the governing body of the game in America meets with no approval in Great Britain. For this there are many explanations. In the first place, there is the inherent British disinclination to accept anything new, but beyond this reason for repelling novelties that seek to cross the Atlantic, there is, in this case, a general feeling that the Americans are always trying to make the game of golf easier and more mechanical. Consequently the British feel that it is up to them, who nurtured the game in its infancy, to see that it keeps its character of its youth.

It was this feeling which led the royal and ancient law-making body to forbid use of the punched and cut-faced irons which the American entrants in last year's open championship brought over. If anyone brings steel-shafted clubs from America to this year's championships it will be a waste of cargo-space, because the governing body is certain to bar them.

Just before the amateur championships began at St. Andrews last month, the rules of golf committee posted a notice in the club-house "deploring" the use in the game of golf of "implements" which have never been associated with it. The notice was polite, but intended, no doubt, to make those who failed to heed its moral lesson just a little bit ashamed of themselves. It read as follows:

"The rules of golf committee hope that golfers, before making use of abnormal methods of play or of abnormal implements, will earnestly consider whether they are acting in conformity with the spirit of the rules of golf, and in particular with the regulations governing the form and make of golf clubs."

"The committee considers it is to be deplored that players, instead of trying to master the use of golf clubs, should endeavor to overcome the difficulties of the game by using implements which have never been associated with it."

At the time of its appearance, the people at St. Andrews interpreted the notice as a bid to H. D. Gilles, a well-known British amateur, to give up the "Eifel Tower" tees, some six to ten inches high, which have excited much comment ever since he began using them last winter. Mr. Gilles took the hint and fell back upon the ordinary little clots of wet sand for his tees the next morning. Anyone who has followed the discussion by British golfers and sport writers upon every American change in the game, knows that the notice is meant for them also.

JUDGE MCKEOWN PRESIDES.

The Supreme Court opened at Dorchester yesterday afternoon with Chief Justice McKewen presiding. Among the cases are those of Thomas D. Vendetti, charged with uttering a forged deed, and George Spencer, accused of a serious offence.

A fine roof shingle which gives lightning protection has been perfected.

Queen Square
TODAY and THURSDAY

WILLIAM RUSSELL
in **Times Have Changed**
"Times Have Changed" is an entertaining feature which presents the serious side of life humorously.
2 Reel Comedy. Regular Prices.
TIME—2.30-7.15-9 o'clock.

IMPERIAL-BIG DOUBLE BILL TODAY
At 4.00 and 8.30 P. M.
ROSSLEY DUMBELLS JR.
30-Lusty Lads-30
In the Right Rollin' Gait
Adventure Fantasy
"ROBINSON CRUSOE"
Crowded Houses Again Yesterday
The New Whistling Hits
The Latest Dance Music
The Bright Comedy Fatter
Also Two-Reel Comedy Picture
THUR.—Booth Tarkington's Best Story "PENROD AND SAM"

Wesley Barry
"The Country Kid"
As the country kid who has to make his younger brothers, Wesley Barry gives the richest entertainment of his career. The action will make you in the game of golf of "implements" which have never been associated with it. The notice was polite, but intended, no doubt, to make those who failed to heed its moral lesson just a little bit ashamed of themselves. It read as follows:

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Regular 30c., This Sale 19c. lb.

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Bars, 25c., Cakes, 2 for 25c., and 4 for 25c.

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