

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDER

SACKVILLE N. B., APRIL 7, 1892

A COMMISSION NOT WANTED.

His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Tilley, acting under the advice of his ministers has refused to grant a royal commission for the investigation of the charges of corruption preferred by the members of the opposition against Mr. Blair and his government. This refusal is full of significance to the people of New Brunswick. For upwards of nine years Mr. Blair has been in the possession of this province. In his hands the taxes and various revenues of the country have been under his direct or indirect supervision. The opposition members have reason to believe that the affairs of the province under Mr. Blair's direction have not been conducted either properly or honestly and in order to protect the interests of the people, have formally asked the Lieut. Gov. to appoint a commission consisting of one or more members of the Supreme Court, to whom would be given the fullest powers to call and examine witnesses and to investigate thoroughly the charges preferred by the opposition in the memorial presented to his honor. It is a deplorable condition of affairs when any branch of government is forced to apply to impartial judges. It is what Mr. Blair has done. In respect in the House he announced his willingness to appoint a fair committee to try out the charges, but the opposition know what that means. It is a simple interpretation of the profane simile of trying to convict his Majesty with the court in the regions of sulphur. Mr. Blair's policy in these trials has been to appoint his confidants, Mr. Wilson, chairman with unlimited powers to object to witnesses, and a majority in his favor to support the chairman, and the case has not the shadow of a chance of being fairly dealt with. It is his plan to grant committees, hold long trials, examine only those witnesses which he thinks proper and run up a heavy bill of expense for printing and circulating the verdict which is of course never unfavorable to himself, then tell the constituents of his accuser what an expensive member they elected.

The charges against Mr. Blair and his colleagues are most serious. They embrace the appropriation of public money for personal use and company purposes. The granting of contracts for monetary consideration, with practicing the fraudulent system of paying taxes on corporations and persons without receiving the same. The accounts with buying the support of money payments and securing the public property to secure themselves in power. These are charges which an honest and fearless cabinet would cheerfully have tried before an impartial tribunal. It is a vindictive would be of great value to them in their relations to the people. But the administration is not casting its eyes towards vindication at present. So long as they can hoodwink the people by conjuring the public accounts and then diverting the minority reports to the committees sitting upon them, just so long will a Royal commission be delayed. The opposition will do well to refuse to press their charges before a tribunal of Mr. Blair's choice. The honor of every name signed on the memorial is at stake and should not be endangered by a partial court. These things will adjust themselves when the wedge of direct taxation which has already been half driven home is driven still further and the electors turn and send in to represent them who are not afraid to have the light of investigation thrown on their acts of administration.

Death of Hon. James Ryan.

A telephone message yesterday morning contained the information that the illness of the Hon. James Ryan of Albert had taken a dangerous turn and dispatch later in the day stated that he had died at 2.30 p. m., at the Waverly House. On the announcement being made, the legislature adjourned in conclusion of Mr. Hamilton's speech, the House immediately adjourned.

Hon. James Ryan was the son of Matthew Ryan, a British soldier, who fought at Waterloo, and lived until within six weeks of being 100 years old. Deceased was born in the year 1801, and has been in public life a good many years. From 1870 to 1878 he represented Albert in the House of Assembly, and in the latter year was appointed to the Legislative Council, of which he had been President for a few years.

The deceased was educated in this province, and married, in 1838, Elizabeth, daughter of the late Jacob Fries, who survives him. At the time of his death he was succeeded by his daughter and Mr. T. T. Ryan the youngest son. The other surviving children are Messrs Heber W. Ryan, Sanford S. Ryan, James T. Ryan, and George F. Ryan, all of whom reside in Moncton and Cordova. There were two children dead. The remains will be brought home for interment and expected to-day. In religion he was a Methodist, and in politics a liberal.

Times Thursday.

According to a return presented to parliament, 3,283,000 dozen eggs were exported to Great Britain in the six months ending December 31, and 1,197,000 in the United Kingdom. There were 239,000 bushels of potatoes exported to the Spanish West Indies, 38,000 to the States, and 35,000 to Newfoundland. This does not look as if there was no market for Canadian produce.

Shortly after the arrest at Manchester of Edward Holden, formerly quarter master in the royal engineers, charged with attempting to learn secrets regarding the defenses of Gibraltar, it was learned that he had sold to France full particulars and plans of all the defenses at Malta. In consequence of the knowledge gained in this manner by the French government, the British authorities have decided to make extensive changes in the defenses.

A Royal Commission

ASKED FOR BY THE PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION.

THE GOVERNOR REFUSES.

In view of the various experiences of the Opposition to have a fair investigation of the charges of corruption openly made against the administration of Mr. Blair, the Opposition leader sent on the 20th ult., a memorial to Lieut. Gov. Sir Leonard Tilley, asking that a fair and impartial tribunal be appointed to investigate 18 distinct charges of corruption. A synopsis of the charges is as follows:

1. That at the instance of Mr. Blair, \$20,000 were required to be paid by the Northern & Western Railway Company or someone connected therewith, to aid in the election of present members in the year of 1886, and that the said contribution was in consideration of return favors by the government.

2. That under the terms of the contract with the Central Railway the latter was required and did pay to Hon. F. P. Thompson \$4,000 in provincial bonds, \$4,000 in a promissory note and other sums and that Mr. Blair got a portion of these sums.

3. That Mr. Blair acquired large shares in the Central Railway for which he paid but little and afterwards sold these shares to other persons and received therefore cash, bonds and promissory notes amounting in all to the sum of \$24,000. The purchase of these shares refused to meet some of the notes and the government in view of the fact refused to pay over the full amount agreed upon in order to meet the above notes.

4. That the govt. withheld part of the subsidies of the Central Railway until the said railway paid Mr. Blair large sums of money.

5. That the Central Railway was compelled to pay Mr. Blair and Mr. Puley large sums of money in order to get the payment of the above subsidies.

6. That the Central Railway was paid large sums of money before it was earned and without warrant or authority of law in order to enable the above company to contribute to government election funds.

7. The members of the executive council have from time to time required a promise from persons promising railroads to give a portion of the money to be paid to election funds of the govt.

8. It is the Leary charge that Mr. Blair in 1889 or 1890 agreed to award a contract to J. D. Leary for work as St. John in consideration that Leary should pay sums of money toward the election of members in St. John.

9. That in 1889 Mr. Blair as leader of the then opposition and P. G. Ryan paid Hon. Charles H. Lablache \$500 to support a want of confidence motion and thereby the administration led by Hon. D. L. Harrington was defeated.

10. That in consideration of the reduction of stampage fees in 1890, Hon. J. B. Sullivan, William Richards, Timothy Lynch and other leaders with the knowledge and request of the government paid large sums of money towards the election of government supporters in Kent, Westmorland and York counties.

11. That the present administration has been in the habit of paying large sums of money to persons for their support in the election of members of the government.

12. That since 1883 large sums of money have been paid out and falsely charged to the construction of bridges and other public works when in fact the money was paid for the election of members of government supporters.

13. That the money purported to have been paid for the construction of bridges at Fredericton, Florenceville, over the Memphigouche at Moncton, over the Memphigouche at Rockland, and College Bridge at Bathurst, and other places was not honestly paid out but went for the election expenses of members of the government.

14. That the whole or a large part of the money charged in the public accounts as having been paid out of the Treasury of R. C. Co., was so paid contrary to the law and to the payment of the same was not authorized by a partial court. These things will adjust themselves when the wedge of direct taxation which has already been half driven home is driven still further and the electors turn and send in to represent them who are not afraid to have the light of investigation thrown on their acts of administration.

15. That \$437,700 charged in the chief commissioner's report for 1890-91, as having been paid to and expended by J. A. Holcom for public works was used and received by a supporter of the government and not for the public works as charged and used for by Mr. Blair and used for his benefit.

16. That Hon. James I. Fellers, was given a seat in the Legislative Council to aid in the construction of a large sum of money to be paid to the government.

17. That Mr. Blair and Mr. Ryan agreed to build an unnecessary bridge over the Molus river, Kent Co., in consideration that William Warrman and others of that county should throw their influence toward electing the government supporters.

18. That a very large part of the sum of \$102,742.95 said to have been paid in 1891 on account of bridges was not expended for such purposes.

The memorial is signed by A. A. Stockton, W. J. Lewis, M. Atkinson, J. Phinney, W. E. Perley, James R. B. Smith, H. A. McKeown, Wm. Shaw, H. A. Powell, O. McMillan and Silas Alward.

Monday His Honor replied to the memorial and refused to grant the commission asked for. He stated that the usual course was for a member to raise in his place in the House, formally make his charges and ask for a special committee to investigate the same. He could not recall a case where a commission had been granted without these formal steps being taken. He also pointed out that the charges in some cases were not sufficiently specific.

J. R. Moffat has sold his five year old gelding, by Peter, Black, to Mr. Silver of Halifax. The price is private but in the vicinity of \$250.00.

What promises to be a very interesting case is set down for the June sitting of the Supreme Court, where a young Amherst man sues a resident of Port Lawrence, for \$5000 for defamation of character.—Press.

At a recent meeting of the Ottawa contributors to the Springfield relief fund, which has been withheld pending satisfactory assurances as to its disbursement, it was unanimously decided to correspond with the treasurer of the Halifax fund to ascertain if possible, the intention of the Halifax contributors. As Halifax is the nearest city to the place of the accident, there was expected to be a disposition to be guided by the course decided on there.

Provincial Parliament.

FREDERICTON, March 29.—Mr. Mitchell introduced a bill imposing certain taxes on certain incorporated companies and associations; also a bill imposing taxes on certain life insurance agents; also bill amending the act to aid in the construction of railways.

Dr. Atkinson made this motion, seconded by Dr. Alward, that the public accounts and all matters connected therewith be referred to the public accounts committee. This is practically refusing the right to examine all the provincial accounts to the above committee.

Dr. Stockton said he congratulated Mr. Blair on getting Mr. McQueen to make an amendment. The amendment showed that the government were anxious to narrow the range of investigation into the public accounts. The result of that would be that when any attempt was made to throw light on the expenditures of 1891 by reference to the previous year's accounts, the government would not be disposed to give that information. He would vote for the resolution in preference to the amendment, but would prefer even the amendment rather than that the accounts should not be referred to the committee at all.

March 30.—There was little fighting in the House, after the House opened, Hon. Mr. Harrington made a farewell speech. A large gathering had assembled to hear the closing words of the veteran politician, and he was frequently applauded during the course of his remarks. He referred very touchingly to the years he had spent in the service of his country and could hardly say he parted with his friends in the House with feelings of genuine regret and felt that he would always have a longing for the old scenes of debate. He referred to his reception in the House in 1854 and of the many changes that had taken place in the House and among the members since that day. He was leaving the House he said without the slightest ill feeling toward anyone. He wished to thank the citizens of Fredericton for their kindness to him. Next he wished to express his warmest thanks and appreciation of the hearty goodwill and support given to him by the people of the noble county of Westmorland. It had been a privilege to him to have been a member of the House of Assembly, and he had been a member of the House of Assembly for many years, but still of warmest pride with him in his early youth, that he might be allowed to fill the position so long filled by his father in the confidence and in the affection of the people of that county. Nine times he had sought their support and with one exception had been successful. In the inner hearts of the people of New Brunswick there was a high-toned, moral sentiment, and he had found it so among the honest sons of Westmorland. They had overlooked his mistakes and his shortcomings, and having tried to do what he believed to be his duty both to them and to the country, he wished also to thank the members of this legislature for their kindness and forbearance towards him. If on any occasion in the heat of debate or from the warmth of personal feelings, he had used any expression that had wounded any member of this House, he deeply regretted it. I say, said Mr. Harrington, "from this life into another with that most ardent and earnest and sincere hope."

Hon. Mr. Blair felt a share of interest in the withdrawal of Mr. Harrington from the scenes of debate. It had been his fortune to fight against him for many years and he had found him a foe worthy of his steel. He hoped Mr. Harrington would be spared to adorn the judicial position. He closed his speech by giving the House the painful news that Hon. Mr. Ryan, President of the council had passed away.

March 31. Dr. Taylor committed a bill giving municipal council power to hold their elections biennially and also to dispense with the June sessions if thought necessary.

Bills were introduced by Dr. Atkinson authorizing the county council to charge any amount for costs and debtors board to settlement to which such debtors belong; by Mr. McKeown providing for the study of the effects of alcoholic drinks and narcotics on the human system in the public schools; by Mr. Blair, making certain provisions respecting the registry of deeds and wills; by Mr. McQueen amending a law relating to the justices of the civil courts.

Mr. McQueen presented the petition of the officers of the Maritimes W. O. T. U. in favor of woman's suffrage.

Mr. Mitchell introduced a bill providing for the blind of the province, \$150,000 per year was granted each such person for educational purposes, also \$80,000 for deaf persons for like purposes.

April 1. Mr. McQueen submitted a petition from 125 citizens of Moncton against a bill to exempt the Moncton sugar refinery from taxation.

Mr. Powell presented the petition of 131 citizens of Moncton in favor of the bill to exempt the Moncton sugar refinery from taxation.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the legality of the Salvation Army to celebrate marriages.

April 2. Much of to-day's session was taken up in discussing the petition from 125 citizens of Moncton against a bill to exempt the Moncton sugar refinery from taxation.

It decided by a popular vote.

Port Elgin.

The material for the new Baptist Church at Port Elgin are being hauled to the spot. The plans have been compared and the work of building will soon commence. The church will be a commodious and a fine addition to the place.

The ice at Bale Verte is now in a very unsafe condition in many places. Mr. William Harworth lost a valuable horse near the "Hallett pier" on Monday 27th ult., and several horses have gone through the ice, but were fortunately recovered.

Rev. Mr. McKie, Presbyterian minister, presented his farewell sermon at Port Elgin on Sabbath evening last. The Rev. gentleman is about taking a well earned rest for a few months. We are hopeful to learn that Mrs. McKie is improving in health.

St. Joseph's College.

OTTAWA, March 29.—Col. Anyot introduced a bill to make voting compulsory.

A long discussion was held on the libel and election case in which German, lib., was disqualified for corrupt practices.

Mr. Mills continued the debate on the budget, talking on the politics from Charles I up.

Sir John Thompson made a masterly speech in which he dealt ably with Mills' walling.

March 30.—Mr. Lister presented a petition commencing certain charges against Judge Elliott in connection with the London election.

Hon. Mr. Haggart replying to Mr. Davies said that the amount paid by the Intercolonial Railway for car mileage between Halifax and St. John, was \$22,351, and that C. P. R. paid the Intercolonial \$13,037.

Mr. Hughes, of North Victoria, moved for a return respecting the drilling of the active militia annually, etc., and other particulars regarding the force. He advocated a return to annual drill, and that if the militia were not drilled annually, they should be disbanded and the money saved to the country.

Hon. Mr. Bower said that any thing he could do to secure the efficiency of the force would be done. As to annual drill, all that was wanted was for parliament to pass the necessary act of doing so.

Mr. McMullen's motion for a return regarding the employment of hands on the Intercolonial came up.

Hon. Mr. Haggart said it would take all season to make it up and would cost \$5,000.

Hon. Mr. Tupper presented the correspondence in reference to the difficulties between Canada and Newfoundland covering a period of four or five years it is very bulky but most interesting reading, and to discontinue the debate he moved that the dominion government acted fairly and above board in all steps she took.

A deputation of horse breeders, accompanied by twenty members of parliament, interviewed the government regarding the employment of hands on the Intercolonial came up.

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