

# THOUSANDS CHEER PUGSLEY'S TERRIFIC EXPOSURE OF THE ASTARDLY BLACKMAILING CONSPIRACY

## GEORGE McAVITY COMPLETELY EXPOSES MAYES' ATTEMPT TO "HOLD UP" HIM AND DR. PUGSLEY

## MIGHTY DEMONSTRATION BY AROUSED CITIZENS FORETELLS LIB. VICTORY

Mr. McAvity's Solemn Declaration Backed Up by John E. Moore and F. W. Holt, C. E.

Contractor's Threats of Exposure and His Offer to Keep Quiet if He Were Given His Price—McAvity and the Others, Having Nothing to Conceal, Defied Mayes and Baxter—Refused His Offer of a \$20,000 Rake-off—A Conversation With Baxter.

### GEORGE McAVITY'S DECLARATION.

This community knows and respects George McAvity. It knows G. S. Mayes. Mr. McAvity yesterday made public a solemn declaration telling frankly of Mayes' attempts to compel the men he now accuses to buy him off. McAvity's declaration is corroborated by John E. Moore and F. W. Holt, C. E. The statements of Messrs. McAvity, Moore and Holt, which are printed here, will be welcomed by all lovers of honesty, decency, and fair-play. They show at once to what depths Mayes and his backers and political associates have descended. The declarations are as follows:—

Province of New Brunswick, City and County of Saint John.  
I, George McAvity, of the City of Saint John, in the City and County of Saint John, Merchant, do solemnly declare and say:

That I have read over what purports to be a copy of the declaration made by Gershon S. Mayes, published in this morning's press.

That in the summer of 1905, Mr. Mayes requested me to become interested with him in the dredging business and I consented to do so. I made several trips to Ottawa in connection with the obtaining of the contracts and spent a great deal of time in connection therewith, both before and after the first contract was awarded being almost daily consultation with Mr. Mayes until some few months ago, when his conduct became unbearable. His demands were so unreasonable and as I then thought and said to Mr. Baxter so much in the nature of blackmail that I declined to have any further business transactions with him. My business connection with Mr. Mayes is now the subject of an action at law and will be fully dealt with in the Courts.

That it is absolutely untrue that I have ever had any conversation with Mr. Mayes respecting any payment to the Hon. Mr. Pugsley as alleged in Mr. Mayes' declaration and I never knew of any payment to Mr. Pugsley in connection with dredging matters and I verily believe that no such payment has ever been made.

That the contract given to Mr. Mayes and referred to in his said declaration was awarded by the then minister, the Honorable Mr. Hyman to Mr. Mayes, he being the lowest tenderer.

That in the month of September last, I met Mr. J. B. M. Baxter, who acted for Mr. Mayes in connection with the dredging contract and is Mr. Mayes' close personal friend and adviser at the entrance to the Law Library, Princess street, in the City of Saint John, and at his request I went in to a room of the said Library and Mr. Baxter then and there proposed to me that if the government would buy Mr. Mayes' dredge at a price which I thought was about \$100,000, there would be a rebate for political purposes of \$20,000. I replied to Mr. Baxter that I was through with Mr. Mayes and would have no further transaction with him.

That early in the present month of October, Mr. F. W. Holt, civil engineer, called upon me at my office and stated that he came with a view of effecting a settlement of matters between Mr. Mayes and myself and that Mr. Mayes was making threats of what he would do to hurt the government if they did not buy his dredge. While I had then firmly made up my mind to have no further business transactions with Mr. Mayes, yet in order to draw Mr. Mayes out and have him committed to the Government and would take the platform himself, I then informed Mr. Holt that I was through with Mr. Mayes, that I was prepared to fight all suits, that there was nothing to conceal as it was a legitimate business transaction on my part and Mr. Mayes would have to take his own course.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing it to be of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Declared to at the City of Saint John, in the City and County of Saint John and Province of New Brunswick this thirtieth day of October, A. D. 1908.  
(Sgd) THOMAS P. REGAN,  
A Commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in the Supreme Court.

### JOHN E. MOORE'S STATEMENT.

Province of New Brunswick, City and County of St. John.

I, John E. Moore, of the City of St. John, in the City and County of St. John and Province of New Brunswick, lumberman, do solemnly declare and say that on the 7th day of October instant, Mr. Percy W. Thomson called at my office and said that Mr. J. B. M. Baxter had been in to see him about the Mayes dredge, and had requested him to call upon the minister (meaning the Hon. Mr. Pugsley) and myself about the matter. He then asked me if something could not be done to buy the dredge, and said that if \$100,000 was too much my own offer of \$125,000, and endeavor to get the dredge for \$100,000. He then said that there would be no trouble, as the talk about the minister having been paid anything was all nonsense, as the alleged payment talked about was two years before he was a member of the House of Commons. Mr. Thomson expressed surprise at this and said he understood it was since Mr. Pugsley had become a minister. I further said to Mr. Thomson that apart from all politics, however, I would be willing to buy the dredge at what it was worth, but I would have to have an inspection. Mr. Thomson then left the office, saying he would see Mr. Baxter and see me again, and the next day he telephoned he had not seen Mr. Baxter, but had seen Mr. Mayes and that Mr. Mayes had asked him to see the minister. Mr. Thomson then said that unless the dredge was purchased at \$100,000, Mr. Mayes would send to the "Gleaner" by special messenger, a statement damaging to the Liberal party and would himself take the platform. Mr. Thomson then added that he did not like the business and had only approached me at the request of Mr. Baxter, and that he considered the best thing that he could do was to drop out of it—that he was foolish to have had anything to do with it.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing it to be of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Declared to before me at the City of St. John, in the City and County of St. John and Province of New Brunswick this thirtieth day of October, A. D. 1908.  
(Sgd) S. A. M. SKINNER.  
A Commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in the Supreme Court.

### STATEMENT BY F. W. HOLT, C. E.

Province of New Brunswick, City and County of Saint John.  
I, Frederick W. Holt, of the City of Saint John, in the City and County of Saint John, Civil Engineer, do solemnly declare and say that on the seventh day of October instant as a result of a conversation which I had with Mr. Gershon S. Mayes and in order if possible to effect a settlement between Mr. Mayes and Mr. George McAvity I called upon Mr. McAvity. I interested myself in the matter purely with a view of effecting a settlement. Subsequently on the ninth day of October I again called upon Mr. McAvity and stated that Mr. Mayes wanted to sell the dredge and would take one hundred and fifty-three thousand four hundred dollars and that if the purchase was made Mr. Mayes would withdraw all suits and give up all notes and cheques and photographs thereof otherwise Mr. Mayes said he would make public damaging statements and take the platform himself. Mr. McAvity replied that so far as he was concerned he was prepared to fight the suits that there was nothing to conceal and Mr. Mayes would have to take his own course. I reported the result of my interviews to Mr. Mayes and have had nothing further to do with the business and I make this solemn declaration

In Sledge-hammer Speech Minister of Public Works Reads Letters, Telegrams and Affidavits Showing How Mayes and Others Sought to Get Hush Money Although They Had Nothing But Lies to Tell—Minister Explains That Mayes' Belated Attempt to Alter the Date of the \$2,000 Transaction Reveals the Whole Plot—How Pugsley Defied Them and How They Sought Revenge—A Scathing Answer to Slander Cheered to the Echo—Great Reception for Pender, Logan and Marcell—No Doubt About Liberal Victory Now.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

St. John is going to punish the Conservative party for the political conspiracy against Hon. William Pugsley and the Liberals.

St. John condemns attempts at blackmail and political assassination. It does not intend to permit the Conservative leaders to steal these constituencies by means of Mayes, the man who wanted \$100,000 for a \$100,000 dredge.

These truths were made clear last evening by one of the most remarkable political demonstrations in the history of the country, when, in the Opera House, and in the streets outside, wildly cheering thousands proclaimed Hon. William Pugsley the hero of the hour, and shouted out their determination to give him and his colleagues, James Pender, tremendous majorities.

Never in the city's history was there so crushing an answer to slander and conspiracy as Hon. Mr. Pugsley's speech and the terrific demonstration which it drew from his fellow citizens.

The Minister of Public Works in a fight-speech, handled Mayes and his political backers without mercy. He took up the allegations in detail, showed their falsity and exposed the whole wretched conspiracy. The Opera House, big as it is, could not hold more than a third of those who clamored for admission.

No one who was there has any doubt today about the triumphant election of Pugsley and Pender.

As early as 7 o'clock the throngs of citizens commenced to gather in the Opera House and by 7:30 every seat in the auditorium was filled and a few odd chairs on the stage were so quickly taken that more room had to be provided. The drop curtain and scenery at the back of the stage were removed to make a larger space and benches were brought from the cellar. Even then the crowds could not find room enough and they continued to throng to the doorway. The sides were filled, every inch of space along the walls was taken up and several rows of people stood along the front of the stage, occupying the place used for the orchestra. The boxes were completely filled, the balcony and gallery were packed almost to suffocation and the doorways, stairways, halls and passageways all the way out to the street were filled with an enthusiastic crowd.

When the minister of public works and the other speakers arrived, they had considerable difficulty in making their way to the stage, so dense was the crowd. Only a small portion of those who marched in the parade were able to gain admittance, the overflow extending up and down Union street on both sides of the entrance. Many others trying in vain to get inside, had to go away.

### On the Platform.

The following, among many others, occupied seats on the platform: Joseph Bullock, E. J. Armstrong, Geo. A. Knowlton, D. J. Purdy, James Seeds, Henry Gallagher, F. J. Lacey, S. C. Young, Hugh Campbell, G. L. Purdy, W. P. Dale, P. Donovan, Doherty, W. A. Lockhart, E. S. Ritchie, Alf. Elkin, P. Mahoney, Joshua Clawson, F. C. Smith, D. J. McLaughlin, J. A. Lacey, George Croome, Stanley Elkin, E. Sunderland, Fred. Barnhill, Walter Fleming, C. P. Clark, A. D. Barbour, Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington, Geo. L. Barbour, C. B. Allan, H. B. Schofield, R. N. Frith, J. S. Climo, Harold Climo, W. A. Porter, John Morrison, T. M. Burns, Roland Frith, W. H. Barnaby, J. Fraser Gregory, W. M. P. McLaughlin, Geo. B. Colville, John Bond, Thomas Gorman, John Hargraves, Hon. L. P. Farns, Edward Lantallum, John Smith, Michael Mooney, Douglas McArthur, M. Coll, Joseph Finley, James A. Estey, C. K. Cameron, J. D. Seely, John W. Sharp, Dr. James Christie, Bowyer S. Smith, Stewart Fairweather, William Kee, Alexander Corbet, N. B. Smith, George Troop, Allan Rankine, F. B. Schofield, Timothy Dawson, Joshua Clawson, Rev. R. Mathers, Alex. Macaulay, T. C. Burpee, Wm. Robson, J. H. McAvity, Rev. W. W. McMaster, Dr. Gorman, Dr. F. L. Kenzie, and others.

It was about 8 o'clock when the approach of the minister was heralded by a wave of cheering that commenced on the street and gradually swelled into the building, until a mighty roar greeted the popular leader as he appeared on the stage. The enthusiastic applause continued for several minutes and the chairman, J. Fraser Gregory, had to wait until it had subsided to announce the first speaker. As he called upon Dr. Pugsley,

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there was another burst of applause and the minister stood at the front of the stage for some moments while cheer after cheer arose from the audience.

Looking over this vast multitude and the magnificent reception they have given me said Dr. Pugsley, it seems as if the efforts of my opponents to kill me have not succeeded.

Another outburst of cheering followed. With the people of the constituency at my back, the minister went on. I am content that you should record your opinion of the subject of the prime minister's policy which has been adopted all over Canada, of resorting to slanders and indulging in falsehoods of every description, and making a most deliberate and unjust attack upon me. I shall deal only with the matter tonight and shall leave the discussion of the dominion issue to my friends, Messrs. Marcell and Logan. Both of these gentlemen have a thorough knowledge of public affairs and will, I know, address you in a most interesting and

Mr. Marcell occupies the distinguished position of deputy speaker of the House of Commons; he enjoys the fortunate position of so far having no candidate opposed to him in his constituency, and he has been good enough to give me some of his valuable time. I am grateful to him for doing this because he is in great debt to me and had already addressed a large number of meetings during the campaign.

Mr. Logan, you all know, is a prominent member of the Liberal party. His presence is also sought in many places, and I am equally thankful to him for doing this because he is in great debt to me and had already addressed a large number of meetings during the campaign.

### The Mayes Slander.

For several weeks it has been stated that the Tory leaders were keeping in reserve for me a bombshell, which they intended to explode at the proper time, and I have had repeated intimations that to me that unless I satisfied the demands of Mr. Mayes by purchasing his dredge at an exorbitant price, he would make an exposure which would have a most damaging effect upon me and upon the Liberal party, it being even said to me that he had photographs prepared of a note which he had given me, and also of the cheque which he had given in payment of the note, as well as of the payments which he had made to Mr. George McAvity in connection with his dredging contracts.

I have read in the Standard of this morning what purports to be a copy of a solemn declaration made by Mr. Mayes before Mr. W. H. Harrison, who, by the way, is the secretary of the Conservative association of this city, of which association I believe Alderman J. B. M. Baxter is the president.

That declaration was read by Hon. J. H. Hazen, the premier of the province, and therefore upon the leaders of the Conservative party, and the responsibility for the course which Mr. Mayes has taken, and for whatever condemnation should attach to those who willfully slander the character of public men, if I am able to show you that the statements contained in this declaration are slanderous, and also for the attempted blackmail tried upon me by Mr. Mayes, if I am able to convince you that there was an attempt at blackmail.

As reported in the Standard, Mr. Mayes in this declaration is made to say, and I now quote the exact words:—  
"On October 15th, 1907, I received a telephone message from Dr. Pugsley, asking me to call and see him next day, which I did. He said, 'Mr. Mayes I am in need of money, and it would be nice if you could help me.' I said, 'Doctor, what for? You know that I have paid you some \$1,000 in my second case against Connolly, which you have in a way offered to pay back, because you have said that Mr. Emmerson was so slow in bringing up the matter, and I have no funds. I am carrying a big load and am paying large amounts to the Bank of Montreal for overdrafts.' Just then Mr. George McAvity came in and Dr. Pugsley said that Mr. Mayes' business was getting along so well that a little money would be very acceptable. I agreed that I was carrying a big back load and that I could not see why Dr. Pugsley should ask me for money. I said, 'What do you want for a loan?' 'Well,' said Dr. Pugsley, 'you see it will be nice to have some one who could do something for you while in Ottawa, there is always something to be done and if I could not give him a cheque that I could give him a note for three or four months.' I asked him how much,

and he said, 'Oh, about \$2,500 or \$3,000.' I said 'this is too much, but I suppose I will let you have a note for four months for \$2,000.' Dr. Pugsley then made the note out and I signed it. He said he felt sure that he would give me good return for it or pay it back."

The Minister's Crushing Reply.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in October, 1907, I was a minister of the crown. Mr. Mayes had a contract with my department for dredging, and if at that time I had asked him for money or received a note from him under the circumstances detailed in this paragraph of the declaration I would be unworthy of occupying a position in the government, and I am sure, and you may be sure, that no matter how Mr. Mayes might be my own feeling in regard to the subject of the prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is the soul of honor, would not permit to remain in his cabinet for a single moment a minister who had accepted money from a contractor. Therefore you will see that the charge is one of a most serious character and one to which Mr. Hazen should not have given currency without the most careful inquiry and positive proof of the correctness of the statements, for which he made himself responsible.

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, when I tell you that the note which I received from Mr. Mayes, and which was the last note or money which I ever received from him, was given not in 1907, but in October, 1905, nearly two years before I became a member of parliament, and that some appreciation of the damnable character of the charge which was made against me and of the extreme to which my opponents will go in their effort to defeat me."

"I were talked with a number of people who were at the Conservative meeting last night and have been informed that not only did Mr. Hazen give the date of the note as October, 1907, but also made the statement that I received it while I was minister of public works."

Mr. Wm. Pugsley, Esq., Minister of Public Works, St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir:—Notice by this evening's papers that you comment on my affidavit stating that you obtained \$2,000 from me in 1905 or 1907. I have no knowledge, because although I sought today to obtain access to the original declaration I was unable to do so. It may be, however, that Mr. Mayes thought that I would not be able to recall the date of the note, which is not in my possession but presumably in his, and that it would make a most telling indictment against me if he could have it appear that the note was given to me after I became a minister. I am confirmed in having this suspicion from the fact that a short time ago Mr. C. J. Osman came to me and told me that Mr. Mayes had informed him that he had given me a note for \$2,000, and Mr. Osman was under the impression that Mr. Mayes had told him it was given while I was a minister.

Then it appears from a statement which Mr. Percy W. Thomson made to Mr. John E. Moore, as I am informed by Mr. Moore, that he was also given to understand by Mr. Mayes that I had received the note after I became minister; also from a statement which Mr. George McAvity says that Mr. F. W. Holt, C. E., who came to him on Mr. Mayes' behalf, made that he also received the same information from Mr. Mayes.

Therefore it is difficult for me to come to any other conclusion than that the statement as contained in the Standard of October 15, 1907 is the same date as contained in the original declaration. I am further confirmed in this view from the fact that it seems incredible that the printer in setting up the type should fall into an error so manifestly to my disadvantage, and so change the date from a time when it would be perfectly proper for me, as the solicitor and counsel for Mr. Mayes, to receive a payment from him on to a date after I became minister, and when it would be most improper for me to do so.

Then, too, if you consider the paragraph

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### Strong Denunciation of Mayes and Hazen.

I want now in the strongest manner possible to denounce Mr. Mayes and those who prepared the declaration for him, and Mr. Hazen, who read the declaration at the meeting last night, as men unworthy to move in decent society and among honorable men.

Now what are the facts? In 1905, Mr. Mayes, who solicitor and counsel for me for a number of years, having been engaged by him in very important professional work, came to me and stated that he was desirous of tendering for dredging in the harbor of St. John and asked my advice as to associating with him one or more business men of the city. Knowing Mr. George McAvity as a prominent business man I suggested that he should see him and perhaps he would become associated with him in the undertaking. From that time on until quite recently, although I knew that Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity were associated together in the dredging work, I had no knowledge of what was the arrangement between them.

From time to time, and indeed very often Mr. Mayes associated together in the dredging work, but in the summer of 1907, when I became a member of parliament and minister, I ceased the practice of law and from that time on I never acted in any way for Mr. Mayes, and Mr. Mayes ceased to be my solicitor and client ceased altogether.

### A Proposition by Mayes.

Let me call your attention to a letter written on the 23rd November, 1907, by Mr. Mayes to me, which is as follows:—  
Hon. Wm. Pugsley,  
Minister of Public Works,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to call your attention to the fact that I have not been paid for any work for the last three months. This is entirely due to the appropriation having been exhausted, and does not reflect upon anybody. Notwithstanding this, at your request, I have prosecuted this work under my contract as diligently as I was receiving the money regularly. I am sure you can understand what a burden this has imposed upon me when you works I have expended upon me when you works I have expended for any purposes. I have a heavy overdraft for which I am paying a heavy rate of interest. Had I so chosen, I could have stopped work altogether and thereby saved my expenditure, but the result would have been that the work would not have been advanced to an extent necessary to provide for the opening of the winter port season which it practically is today. Under these circumstances I would suggest that you should cancel my old contract from the date of the last payment under it and substitute a new contract embodying all the work which remained unperformed at that date together with the work since awarded to me and which has recently been surveyed by Messrs. Valiquet and Holt, this work to be at the same schedule as paid to the Dominion Dredging Company, for similar, though in many instances, not so difficult work as we have had the section which contains nearly all the boulders in that water work which has added very low and of the difficulties of my work. Trusting that this request may receive your most favorable consideration, I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
G. S. MAYES.

To which I replied on the 18th of December, 1907, as follows:—  
Dear Sir:—I have had under careful consideration your letter of the 23rd ult., asking to be relieved of your contract of the 30th September, 1905, and after consulting with the chief engineer of my department and examining the contract and specifications very carefully, I have come to the conclusion that it will not be possible to comply with your request, and I have therefore to ask that you will proceed as rapidly as possible and complete the work required under said contract. I shall be glad to learn from you how soon you will be able to complete this work, I am,  
Yours very truly,  
WILLIAM PUGSLEY,  
Min. of Public Works.

### Absolutely Independent of Mayes.

As further evidence of the fact that I was absolutely independent of Mr. Mayes and sought to guard in every way the public interest, I will go back to October, 1907, when I received from Resident Engineer Scammell a telegram of that date as follows:—  
Oct. 19, '07.  
Hon. Wm. Pugsley,  
Min. of Public Works,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Mayes defies me in his work, absolutely refuses to dredge in accordance with instructions given in writing and also personally delivered. He stated that he had no power over him, have cancelled all his work until he shows his obedience, kindly wire as soon as possible. Have wired the chief engineer.

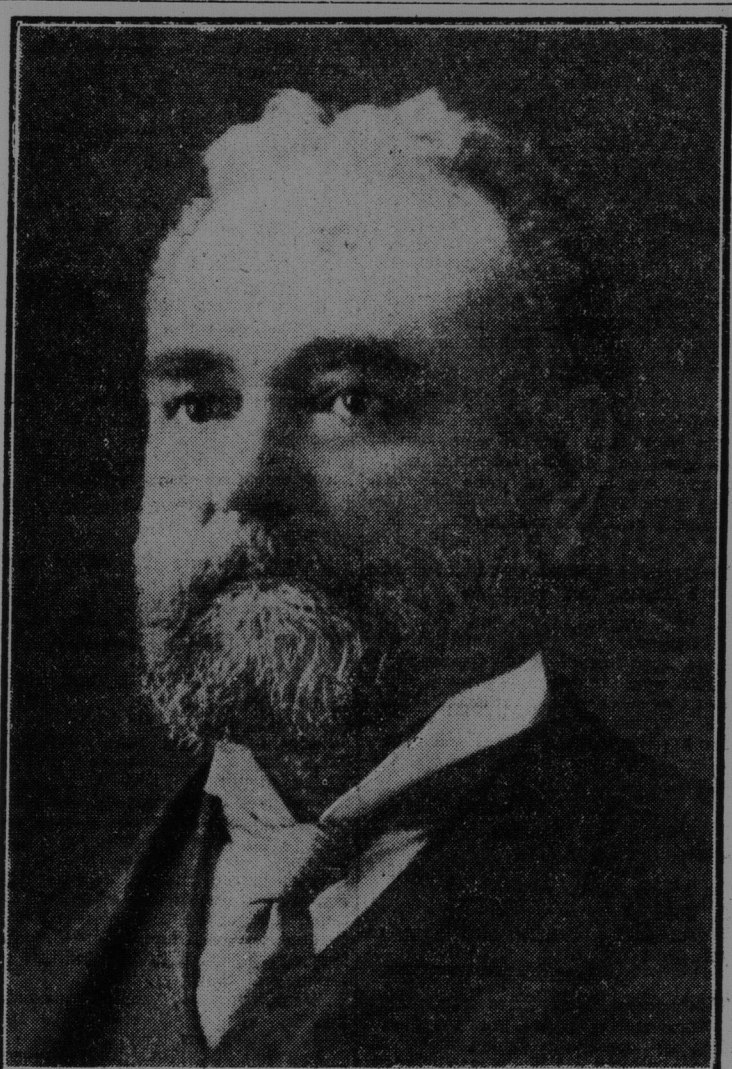
In reply to which I wired Mr. Scammell on 12th October, 1907, the following instructions:—  
Oct. 12, '07.  
J. K. Scammell, C.E.,  
St. John, N. B.

Your telegram received. Carry out instructions of Chief Engineer.  
WILLIAM PUGSLEY.  
May 16, '08.

### More Convincing Correspondence.

To which I replied on the 18th of that month as follows:—  
May 18, '08.  
G. S. Mayes,  
St. John, N. B.

Same calling is in all advertisements issued for dredging tenders, regret find it impossible to make exception in your case.  
WILLIAM PUGSLEY.  
Again in July, 1908, I received from Mr. (Continued on page 6, 2 column.)



HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

The Man Who Had the Courage to Resist Blackmail and Who Has Crushed His Opponents.

of the declaration which I have just read, you will see that it is drawn with the clear intention of conveying to the public mind that I was a minister at the time Mr. Mayes says that I stated to him 'You see it will be nice to have some one who could do something for you while in Ottawa.' 'that there was always something to be done.'

If I were base enough, false enough, to my duty as a minister of the crown to accept money from a contractor these words would be entirely applicable, but they are not applicable to a note given two years before I became a member of parliament, at a time when I was a member of the provincial government and legislature and when I had not the slightest thought or expectation of becoming a member of parliament. This falsehood has gone abroad, it has been published undoubtedly all over Canada and no doubt every newspaper in the land there will appear the statement that I, while minister of the crown, received the sum of \$2,000 from a dredge contractor while my denial of false dealing will not reach all parts of the country, and no doubt Conservative speakers will be using this as a canvas against the government. Therefore you can see how impossible it is to repair the wrong which has been done me and the government of which I am a member.

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WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

Again in July, 1908, I received from Mr. (Continued on page 6, 2 column.)

If Dr. Pugsley had bought the Mayes dredge, Mayes would have been his "dear friend." But when the Minister of Public Works acted the part of an honest and fearless public servant, when he refused to be "held up," when he turned down the offer of a \$20,000 "campaign contribution" and showed Mayes the door, Mayes made that affidavit which shows the public just what its author is. It has killed Mayes and the Conservative party in St. John.