

EXPOSING THINGS HARD TO EXPLAIN

Poisoning the Wells--Government Lets Contract at Large Figure and Then Takes Sub-Contract at Small Price--Middleman Buys Wharf for \$1,000 and Turns It Over for \$5,000--Some of the Financial Transactions--Outside Engineers Get Haul.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.--The House has been in supply most of this week and has voted many millions of money, largely for public works, railways and canals. The minister of public works has not yet been able to explain the following contradictions:

On the 17th of March 1906, Mr. Fielding predicted a falling off in revenue of six and a half millions or more for the year.

In July 1906, the decrease was over six millions, and yet Mr. Pugsley was putting through a supplementary estimate of 1906 items, involving over \$6,000,000, and when reminded of the falling revenue he stated that there was no cause for alarm and that only some unexpected calamity or accident would prevent the construction of these works.

In October, 1906, the works were all promised to the electors and tenders were called for many of them.

In December 1906, when the falling off in revenue was much slower than it had been in July and October, the government concluded not to build these works because of the decline in the revenue.

SIR WILFRID ANSWERED

Something has happened in Winnipeg which recalls Sir Wilfrid's speech at the beginning of the session. The premier declared that the Conservatives had carried Manitoba by the use of outrageous electoral lists. The Roblin government at the meeting of the legislature caused a committee of the House to be appointed to investigate this registration, summoning the judges who prepared the lists, and Mr. Sifton on whose authority Sir Wilfrid made his statement. The Liberals in the Manitoba legislature collapsed entirely, one of them admitting that the lists were correct, and the others refusing to offer any proof in support of Sir Wilfrid's charge.

A REMARKABLE CONTRACT

The public accounts committee has begun investigations, and before the first witness had finished he showed that the department of public works offers a field for a Cassel's enquiry. This witness was Engineer Valiquette of the public works department. His evidence related chiefly to Quebec dock contracts of Dussault & Lemieux, begun four or five years ago, extended and altered by subsequent private arrangements, and constituting four separate contracts. The contractors have received over \$750,000. The inquiry turned on dredging and filling. There was no regular competition for this work, as there had been no call for tenders since the first contract, and then the tenders were for a lump sum, whereas the contractor is paid by the quantity. The first paid for excavation was 66c a yard, afterwards raised to 75c. Filling with earth was 20c, afterwards raised to 32c. On the two last extensions of the contract alone the government paid for earth excavation and earth filling down to last March, \$87,000.

Most of the earth dug out of the basin and some brought from outside was used for filling. So for every yard they dug out the contractors got \$1.07.

Now comes the remarkable feature. A great deal of this dredging and filling was done by government dredges. The engineer testified that the contractor had not sufficient plant and the government had the only dredge capable of performing part of the work. Therefore the government took a sub-contract from the contractor.

The terms were remarkable. The government paid the contractor 75 cents for digging and 82 cents for filling.

The contractor paid the government 15 cents a yard, and the government scooped dumped the material in the embankment.

\$1.07 to the contractor who did nothing; 15 cents to the government which did the work.

Engineer Valiquette says that the government really got 20 cents, owing to the difference between scoop measurement and in the site.

This leaves the contractor only 87 cents profit. He got only a little over five times as much as he paid.

The government officer defends the sub-contract by stating that private contractors would have done the work for 15 cents, site measurement, which means that the government by a private deal paid \$1.07 for work that was worth 20 cents in the open market.

Mr. Northrup's examination showed that the cost of operating and maintaining the government dredge during the time she earned the \$12, 120, and did nothing else, was between \$40,000 and \$45,000. So the government seems to have been out \$30,000 that season, while the contractor made nearly \$60,000.

The government engineer had figured in advance that the dredge would dig 1,000 yards a day, earning \$150, which was little more than the expected cost of operation. Under Mr. Sharpe's examination, the engineer admitted that this would have earned for the contractor, when the material was placed on the embankment \$1,070; or \$920 daily clear gain. In fact, however, the dredge took out only 600 yards a day, earning \$90 for the government, or much less than the cost of operation, and making \$842 a day for the contractor or \$552 clear profit. This is a low estimate for the filling would be loose measurement.

As these contracts were given by private arrangement, there was no reason why the government should not have done the dredging and the filling on its own account, more especially as it had the best plant for the purpose. Or if the dredging is done for the contractor as a favor to him, the government might have taken something near the contractor's own price.

INTERESTING TO CARTWRIGHT

Volume two of the Auditor General's Report should have great interest for Sir Richard Cartwright. It contains the payments to government organs for printing and advertising. When the Conservatives ruled, Sir Richard called this "poisoning the wells." He declared: "We have a government which does not hesitate to poison and corrupt the very sources of information from which alone the ordinary voter can learn how public affairs are administered. There is not one act so fraught with evil consequences, not one sign so significant of degradation as the manner in which the public press has been openly and systematically debauched year after year."

In the last year of Conservative rule, printing and advertising expenditure was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Government advertising \$42,718; Printing outside the government bureau 169,320; Total 232,038; Total in 1906 (Lib.) \$71,707; Total in 1908 1,087,336.

This latter figure is made up as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Advertising \$287,407; Printing 800,413.

Here is a list of a few government organs, through which the poison was distributed last year:

Table with 2 columns: Publication, Amount. Montreal Herald \$36,736; Montreal Le Canada 6,643; Montreal La Presse 7,801; Moncton Transcript 13,299; Quebec Soleil 6,958; Quebec Telegraph 7,460; Toronto Star 4,977; Winnipeg Free Press 4,788; Ottawa Free Press 32,748; Halifax Chronicle and Echo 13,213; Halifax Recorder 4,635; St. John Sun and Star 13,228; St. John Globe 6,385; Dawson World 3,070; Edmonton Bulletin 1,019; Brockville Recorder 2,154; Brantford News 1,000; Brantford Expositor 1,410; Calgary Alberta 1,610; Fredericton Herald 1,872; Kingston Whig 1,326; London Advertiser 2,494; Montreal Witness 6,828; Pictou Advocate 2,081; Regina Leader 2,344; Sydney Record 1,061; Yarmouth Herald 1,467.

For the remainder, numbering some hundreds, see Auditor General's report, 1908, page B 3 to 9.

AN EXPENSIVE ENGINEER

The government keeps a large and expensive staff of engineers and architects, and yet goes outside for much expert work. H. E. Vauletel of Montreal, is one of these outside employees. On Monday (Hansard, page 1464) ministers explained how much had been paid him in the last four years.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1905-6 \$6,196; 1906-7 14,507; 1907-8 11,767; 1908-9 (incomplete) 22,231.

These payments include \$12,360 for plans for immigration sheds at Quebec, which have not been commenced, but may perhaps be built in future; \$12,000 for designing steel freight sheds at Montreal, which the government does not propose to build; \$18,000 for designs for St. Andrew's dam on the Red River, and \$5,488 for redesigning the Quebec bridge on

which Mr. Vauletel is now engaged at \$1,000 a month.

THE MIDDLEMAN AGAIN

The middleman is still getting 'in his work. A neat job of his was disclosed in supply on Thursday, (Hansard unreviewed 1686). These facts are admitted by the minister:

Mr. O'Leary of Richibucto, N. B., owned a wharf, which he desired to sell. He understood that the government wanted the property and offered it for \$1,000 to Mr. Waterbury, an officer of the public works department.

Mr. Murray, a prominent Liberal, bought the wharf from Mr. O'Leary for \$1,000, which was the price at which the owner offered it in the open market to the government or any other purchaser.

Immediately the government bought it from Mr. Murray, for \$5,000, \$4,000 for the middleman!

And the government could have bought the wharf any time from the Conservative owner at the same price that Mr. Murray paid. Everybody knows that Mr. Murray bought the wharf to sell it to the government. Mr. Pugsley sent a convenient engineer, who reported that the price of \$5,000 was fair, just as another engineer reported that the price in the Moncton and Halifax land deals was just, and yet another engineer reported 75 cents a yard a fair price for dredging, when the same officer was accepting 15 cents for the government dredge that was doing the work.

A. E. Hoare, C.E., is an engineer regularly in the employ of the government. It will be remembered that he was engineer of the Quebec Bridge Co. He began that service in 1900 at \$400 per month. In 1904 he was receiving \$500 per month. Then the Transcontinental Commission made him a division engineer on the Quebec end of the Grand Trunk Pacific. From that time until the spring of 1906, half a year after the bridge fell, Mr. Hoare was a salaried engineer of both concerns, receiving \$700 per month. It happened that during most of this period, ex-Premier Parent was president of the Bridge Company and chairman of the Government Transcontinental Commission. Mr. Hoare claims that he was able to do his duty as resident engineer on the two enterprises at one time. The government has paid for both.

Before the public accounts committee on Friday he admitted all the facts here stated, while Macdonald of Picot, Carvell and other government supporters commended him by declaring that a professional man may have as many clients as he likes.

HIGH RENT.

How is \$42,500 a year rent, with taxes and other charges in addition, for a building assessed at \$100,000? This is what the government pays for a building on Slater street, Ottawa, occupied in part by the Department of Militia.

Mr. Pugsley says the assessment is less than the value, and that the building is worth \$150,000. On that high valuation the government is paying 28 per cent, and kindly requires the proprietor of the obligation of paying taxes. It is not necessary to say that the chief visible owners of the building are govt. party men. There is some interesting speculation as to the ministers and members who may be invisible owners.

NOTES

Lawyer Shepley still gets a goodly share of government employment. In the list of payments last year by the government for legal services, his firm is down for \$26,000.

Western Conservative members are putting up a great fight this session against railway charter mongering and paper railways generally. In the railway committee they insist that companies seeking extensions of time for amendments to their charters or new concessions, shall give evidence that they intend to construct. These members have no desire to supply speculators with charters obtained only to sell, and designed to deceive the settlers.

W. Jones, who has been working for W. Byington, south-east of town had a narrow escape from freezing to death on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. He had been to Carleton, and on his return journey was thrown from his horse by the animal stumbling. Mr. Jones was not seriously injured and started for W. R. Braden's house. Not succeeding in arousing the inmates, he started for town but became bewildered, and from 11 o'clock on Tuesday night to 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon he wandered about on the prairie, being only able to walk a short distance and then falling in the snow. When found by a search party, his hands, feet and face were badly frozen--how seriously it is at present difficult to say. He was removed to R. W. Cundell's and Dr. Beer summoned--Carlyle Herald.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

BETTER THAN SPANKING. Spanking does not cure children of bed-wetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 38, Windsor, Ont., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment, with full instructions. Send no money, but write her to-day if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night.

DROWNS SON AND THEN SUICIDES

Mrs. Finlayson, in a Fit of Insanity, Ends Life of Her Three-Year-Old Son and Herself in Water Tank--No Inquest.

Yesterday morning Mrs. Wm. Finlayson, 1366 Rae street, north, in a fit of insanity drowned her three-year-old son in a cistern and then climbed into the cistern and drowned herself.

It is thought that the fit of insanity was brought on by illness which she had been suffering for over a year past.

Mr. Finlayson, who is a partner in the firm of Slater & Finlayson, general merchants doing business near the corner of Albert and Dewdney streets, had left his house shortly after seven o'clock to open the store,

and afterwards returned for breakfast. When he got back to the house he could not find his wife and child any place. After a search he located them in the cistern in the basement, and both were lifeless. Assistance was secured and the bodies taken out. The coroner was notified but did not deem an inquest necessary.

The remains were sent to Seaford, Ont., by this morning's train for interment.

Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson, who have been married for about five years, came west from Seaford, Ont., about three years ago.

BRETT FOR LEADER

Popular Physician of Banff Will Lead the Conservatives of Alberta--R. B. Bennett to Run in Calgary.

Banff, Alta., March 2.--Dr. R. G. Brett, proprietor of the Sanitarium, has consented to accept the leadership of the Conservative party of Alberta, and will contest the constituency in which this place is located. He was formerly leader of the opposition in the Northwest Legislature, and was one of the best known of the public men of the earlier days. During recent years he has been out of politics, but upon being approached to accept the leadership he has consented. It is understood that Mr. Maitland S. McCarthy has declined the position. R. B. Bennett declined to be a candidate in Calgary unless some one else accepted the leadership of the party, and this objection has now been overcome.

BENNETT AND BLOW TO RUN

Calgary, March 2.--Dr. Blow and R. B. Bennett were the nominees of the Conservative party at an enthusiastic meeting of the Conservatives tonight. Several names were put up but all refused to stand so that the unanimous decision was for the two mentioned. Dr. Blow is put forward by the railway men with whom he is very popular. He is a large property owner and has a high standing in business circles. Both gentlemen accepted nomination.

W. L. Walsh said that Dr. Brett of Banff, having consented to become the Conservative leader, Mr. Bennett's objections had been overcome, and his name was now before the delegates as a candidate.

Additional Locals.

Dr. Graham is back from the coast and will take up his residence in the city again.

The Bishop of Qu'Appelle will hold an ordination of priests and deacons in Moose Jaw next Sunday.

The marriage of Miss Rae Clothier to Mr. E. A. Boyle, of Winnipeg, takes place today at Indian Head.

Monday was the anniversary of St. David, the patron Saint of Wales whose memory his country retains with traditional tenacity.

W. M. P. Starr, an Indian Head merchant, has made an assignment to J. M. Wessell, official assignee, for the benefit of his creditors.

D. S. Mackenzie, deputy minister of education for Alberta, who has been detained in England through illness, has sailed for Canada.

In reply to a letter sent by the city clerk, the city solicitor has informed the city council that in his opinion expenditures for banquets and receptions are illegal. The council, however, has power to grant money to the Board of Trade and to the Agricultural Association.

A burglar who escaped with Bill Miner from New Westminster penitentiary, has been recaptured near Bellingham, Wash., and will be extradited. Asked regarding Bill Miner he said: "I will talk of anything but his escape. The truth about it would do no one any good." He says Miner is now in Australia.

Mr. J. C. Pope, official auditor of Regina, is in the city auditing the brand office accounts. Mr. Pope has many friends in the city who always look forward to his annual visit here with pleasure. In the early days when bicycle racing was at the apex of its popularity in the Northwest, "J. C." used to be one of the crack-jacks who fought it out on the track here with Archie Hawthorne, Billy Crawford and some of the other local speed artists.

Births

GORDON--At Regina, on Friday, February 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gordon, a daughter.

The oven does the baking, the fire-box controls the oven heat, and the grates hold the coal or wood that produces the heat, so THE GRATES are important.



Sask-alta Range Double Duplex Grates

"Sask-alta" Double Duplex Grates are made in four pieces, each grate shaken separately. Ashes over one grate can be shaken without wasting good fuel over other grate. No poking necessary, thereby saving fuel. Dampers at both ends of fire-box secure perfect drafts. When grates are inverted for wood a patent clamp retains them in position. The easiest-working way is the surest-serving way--and that's "Sask-alta" way.

McClary's

London, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, St. John, Hamilton, Calgary PEART BROS. HARDWARE CO. Ltd. Local Agent

Gazette Appointments

J. P. Walker of Saskatoon, official assignee. L. A. Lotzner of Howell, stock inspector. Geo. G. Green of Valparaiso, justice of the peace.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

J. W. L. Turner of Onion Lake. G. W. Phenix of Carlyle. J. H. Kennedy of Arberry. E. H. Almond of Estofmami. C. H. Preest of Kelliber.

POLICE MAGISTRATE

Jas. H. Lindsay of Prince Albert.

NOTARIES PUBLIC

E. N. Malby of Manor. T. A. Anderson of Earl Grey. W. J. G. Hall of Elstow. J. H. Knowler of Whitewood. C. Vokes of Quill Lake.

SWALLOWED A BUTTON HOOK

What might have been a fatal accident occurred last Saturday morning when the little son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McKenzie swallowed a button hook while playing. He was immediately taken over to Dr. Hicks who was unable to locate it at home and on Monday the little fellow was taken to Moose Jaw and X-Rays used, but the doctors there were unable to find any trace of the button hook.

RACE WAR IN ONTARIO

Windsor, Feb. 28.--A race war has broken out between the white and negro school supporters of a public section a short distance from Puce. The trouble arose over hiring a teacher to take charge of the school at the beginning of the year. As a result of a previous election, the board is composed of Walls and Hersey, colored, and Chairman Standish, a white man. The board had several applications, but accepted a colored girl from Amherstburg. Dissatisfaction broke out among the white supporters, and out of twenty white children registered at the beginning of the year only two or three are in attendance now. An effort was made to send the children to school in an adjoining section, but they were refused admittance. Some irate parents say they are prepared to start a private school.

CIDER IS NEGLECTED

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 28.--A bulletin on cider issued by the Dominion analyst states that of sixty-two samples examined many contained salicylic acid, while others were colored with dyes and contained chlorides and sulphates. The analyst expresses the opinion that either a real cider, industry does not exist in Canada, or that no one is looking after its purity. Some of the cider sold, it is pointed out, is not cider at all. The report also says: "The manufacture of cider in Canada has not received the attention it deserves." The apple crop is stated as 18,625,186 bushels for 1901. It is capable of great increase and the manufacture of cider under proper conditions, may become a great industry in Canada. The world's market is not fully supplied appears from the fact that dried apples, cores and parings are regularly shipped from the United States to France by be used in the manufacture of a low quality cider.

ISSUERS OF MARRIAGE LICENSES

F. E. Snell of Advance. C. H. Priest of Kelliber. A. L. Burke of Findlater. J. A. Klafschick. D. Clayton of Lang. Robt. Ewart of McTaggart. G. A. Machan of Findlater. Nicholas Thille of Fish Creek. J. M. Ferguson of Wiggins.

TURKEYS

John Munro, of Regina. F. W. Leminden of Regina.

STOCK INSPECTORS

A. P. Marcotte, of Howell. Peter MacDonald of Estevan. Frank Lasby of Carlyle.

INSPECTORS OF WOLF PELTS

W. H. Tallis of Borden. Robert Graham of Dewey. The following resignations and re-appointments are announced: Albert Nenzel, of Muenster, justice of the peace. Albert Nenzel of Muenster, justice of the peace.

ACTING PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Hon. J. A. Calder.

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS

Hon. A. P. McNab.

DEPUTY MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

J. N. Bayne.

PROCESS ISSUER

George Greer of Orhov.

OFFICIAL AUDITORS

A. E. Crowther of Chellwood; F. J. Kinkele of Eyebrow.

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Olson-Riley.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Riley of Rose Plains, Sask., was the scene of a quiet wedding on Thursday, Feb. 18, when their only daughter, Mabel Alice, became the wife of J. O. Olson of Walpole, Sask.

Miss Kate Donaghy of Glenboro, Man., cousin of the bride acted as bridesmaid, while J. C. Olson assisted her brother through the trying ordeal. The bride was attired in a handsome gown of navy blue velvet cloth over white silk. Miss Donaghy wore brown over white silk. After partaking of a sumptuous wedding breakfast the happy couple left by the C.N.R. from Fairlight on an extended trip of a month or six weeks for the south, visiting relatives in South Dakota, Minn., returning by Winnipeg and Glenboro, Man. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Wilson of Waseota. On their return they will take up their residence at Mr. Olson's farm in the Bethany district.

CHAPPED FROM ELBO

Boy's Agony Relieved

If you are suffering from chapped hands you comprehend a little what Henry Walker, 1421 Huron Street, Montreal, felt when he was told by his mother, telling of the representative, that "Henry works with his hands all day long, and his hands are raw and chapped, and he is cold, as he was told the worst case of chapped hands I have ever seen." He tried every salve, but nothing really until he tried balm seemed to be taking and smarting all cracks began to be healed, and the balm seemed to be healing his hands and arms and soft.

"What it means, New Patrick Jones, New York, talking at a dinner school is no more, that is a good thing, though, many a boy full of pluck."

"I remember a boy one day in a geometrical class, he said 'savagely,' 'for the last square of the right-angled triangle.' 'It's equivalent to me, sir.' There's a Bill."--Boston Herald.

Unless worms be exterminated, no child can be healthy. Give the best medicine for worms.

Mother (reprovingly) know that you should kiss your daughter--But, m so forward for a girl! --Boston Transcript.

DEAFNESS CANNOT be cured by local applications, reach the diseased part. There is only one way, and that is by medicines. Deafness is a disease of the ear, and it is entirely closed, result, and unless it can be taken out and its normal condition restored, the hearing will be destroyed for out of ten cases of deafness which is nothing but a condition of the ear.

We will give One for any case of Deafness, that cannot be cured by any other means. F. J. CH.

Sold by Druggists. Take Hall's Family Medication.

"Sometimes I see Uncle Eben, 'dat de really an' truly loves dat's hira' somebody Washington Star."

Minard's Liniment Cures the King's rheumatism was related the other Rev. Cecil Maunsell.

The reverend gentleman, for the first time, said that a boy walked up to him while he was walking along the street, and said to him "Mister, can you tell me 'Yes,' replied the his watch, 'it is a question that he then inquired 'that he had been to see the blooming 'I am not going to w 'Neither shall I,' as he resumed his way himself, said Mr. T wards related the incident.

Coughs and Croup

Especially night tures needs a little the irritation, inflammation, check of the disease. --give the child Cherry Pectoral doctor if this is his He knows best.

Ayer's

If you think constipation consequence, just ask will disabuse you of the order. 'Correct' is a say. Then ask him a mild liver pill, all --Made by the J. C. Ayer