

THE HERALD

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LAST CALL—The year has all but expired, and many have not remitted their subscription. Will they make a spurt during the last day or two? Who will lead in the rush?

We wish all our friends a happy and prosperous New Year.

Saw-Dust and Graft.

A remarkable case of graft in connection with saw-dust was unearthed by the public accounts committee at Ottawa on the 15th inst. The matter, which was introduced by Mr. Crockett, M. P., for York N. B., constitutes a singular story of political jobbery. The case is not complete yet; but its main outlines have been made quite clear, and are as follows: On the water front of Richibucto N. B. are two wharves. One, known as the municipal wharf, is in good repair, and has on it the tracks of the Kent Northern Railway. It is about 150 feet long. Until recently it was leased to the railway for \$50 a year. In 1908 the Dominion Government purchased this wharf for \$1500. Adjoining this wharf is another, about 500 feet long, known as the Saw-dust wharf. This was built many years ago of mill refuse, sawdust, etc. The mill which provided the material shut down 40 years ago. The crib work has been washed away and the so-called wharf is really a beach. This wharf was owned for many years by Richard O'Leary, the largest property owner of the village, and indeed, of the county. He offered to sell to the department of public works for \$1000. The offer was made to D Waterbury, Inspector of Public Works and George Day, at that time resident engineer at Chatham. The offer was rejected, Waterbury saying that the price was too high and Day adding "you are on the wrong side of politics." On 19th or 20th May, 1908, Thomas O. Murray, manager of the Kent Northern Railway, bought this wharf from O'Leary for \$700. In the deed and a mortgage which accompanied it the consideration was described as \$1000, but this was an over-statement. After the property had passed out of O'Leary's possession the municipal officials refused to reduce his assessment, holding that the wharf was valueless.

On 24 September, 1908, Murray sold the wharf to the department of public works for \$5,000. The cheque was received by him in October, 1908. These are the main facts of the case. The Department of Public Works already had ample wharf accommodation, and paid \$5,000 in the heat of an election campaign for a useless wharf, in a ruinous condition, which had been purchased four or five months before for \$700, and which had been offered to the Government for \$1000. A circumstance worthy of note is the fact that on 18 Sept. 1908 Murray despatched the following telegram to A Valiquette, an official of the Public Works Department at Ottawa: "Please let me know if wharf matter passed council. This matter important to LeBlanc, please rush it." Mr LeBlanc was the Liberal candidate in Kent. Murray was active in the management of the Liberal campaign.

We have here a case where the Government paid for a property five times the price for which they could have previously bought it. But everything goes to show that the deal was not at all out of the ordinary. It is only a sample of what is constantly going on between the Government and some of their favorites. This is the conclusion we must assume from the attitude of the Government, department most directly implicated in the affair. The Minister of Public Works, when the matter came up, made no attempt to deny the facts of the case, as brought out in evidence. As a matter of fact, he defended the transaction. In consequence of this attitude of the Minister of Public Works, Mr Pugsley, we may look for this kind of business in the ordinary course. In order that our readers may the more readily grasp and retain in memory, this scandalous case of graft, which the Government actually defend, the following summary will be found useful:

The Government did not need the wharf at any price. The Government refused to buy at \$1,000. The owner was ready to sell at \$700 to any person. The Government could have bought for that price. The wharf was sold for \$700. The Government then bought at \$5,000. This was after the middleman had seen Mr Pugsley. It was after he had telegraphed to Ottawa that the sale was of great importance to the Government candidate. The purchase was made a few days before the election. The man who got the \$5,000 does not explain what he did with the money. The wharf has neither been repaired nor used since the Government bought it. It was not needed when it was bought, and is not needed now.

So strong is the disagreeable odor from this piece of political jobbery that even the nostrils of the Toronto Globe, the chief Liberal organ, are affected. The organ expresses the hope that the honor of the department of Public Works may not suffer in connection with the matter. These are the Globe's observations: "The public will be content to await a full disclosure of the facts in the purchase by the Department of Public Works of the wharf at Richibucto. So far as disclosed they are very much in need of explanation, and the curiosity of the Opposition with regard to them seems not unnatural. The paying of \$5,000 for a property that had been sold a few months before for \$700 is a transaction that on the face of it may well excite surprise. Richibucto is scarcely in the class of places where values appreciate with that rapidity. If the Department has been made the victim of some faithless official the sooner he ceases to be a public servant the better. The smallness of the amount involved has nothing to do with it. If it is necessary to convey the lesson that honesty must rule in the expenditure of every dollar of public money, it should be conveyed in the most striking and most salutary way. "We feel sure that Hon. Mr Pugsley sees there is something here in which both the honor and the methods of the department are involved, and that he will be as zealous as any member of the Opposition to make it clear either that no wrong has been done, or if there has that a signal example will be made of everybody who has had hand or part in it. If methods are at fault there should be a change in them. Where public funds are concerned there cannot be too many safeguards surrounding their expenditure. The report of one official on the value of any piece of property purchased by the Department is perhaps not sufficient. There should be an independent valuation whenever the sum to be expended is considered enough to warrant it."

This is all very fine; but will the Globe adhere to this attitude? More than once before now articles of this kind have appeared in the columns of the chief Liberal organ, but the subject was suddenly dropped whenever the Ministers and their press were found not only defending shady transactions; but assailing all who attempted to expose them. It will, therefore, be of much interest to watch the future attitude of the Globe in this case.

In the investigation before the public accounts committee, Murray, the go-between, was the first witness. In the course of his evidence it was shown that he had gone to see O'Leary some time in April 1908, and, among other things asked O'Leary what he would charge for the wharf. O'Leary replied that he wanted \$700 for it, Murray and George W Robertson of the Richibucto wharf department, another active Liberal worker, and an inspector for the public works department, visited Ottawa on the 7th of May and saw Pugsley. After his return, on May 18, he made an arrangement with O'Leary, buying the wharf, and giving him a mortgage on it for three days. The deed and the mortgage both put the price at \$1000. Murray was unwilling to admit that it was at this request, but offered no explanation for the misstatement. On May 20, Murray and Robertson visited St. John, and there Murray obtained \$1000 from a bank on a note for 60 or 90 days, he could not recollect which. Robertson endorsed the note. Asked whether he saw Mr. McAvity, he denied calling upon him, but said he saw him on the street. The note ultimately was paid, but he could not say that he had provided the money. On his return to Richibucto on May 23, he paid O'Leary \$600. The balance of \$100 he handed over on the 15th of October. Murray denied that he had any conversation with Geoffrey Stead, the present resident engineer at Chatham, until the date on which that officer surveyed the wharf. Thereupon he was confronted with the fact that on June 4th, 1908, he wrote to Stead, offering the wharf for \$500 to the Department of Public Works. His explanation was that he had thought of his letter to Stead as a letter to the Department. Another point was the disposition of the \$5000. Murray said that he gave to Robertson a sum which he could not state, perhaps \$200, not as much as \$3000. In liquidation of some obligations, the nature of these obligations he could not state. He would not swear this was before the election. With the rest he had paid various debts, which he did not state. He first stated that he gave the whole \$5000 to his wife, but subsequently admitted that he got it back from her. He got the money in \$5 and \$10 bills and handed to Robertson the same bills that he received from the bank. Cross-examined by Mr Carvell, Murray said that Andrew Loggie, of the firm of A & B. Loggie had asked him to withdraw his offer to the government and allow him to bid for it. Loggie knew that the offer was for \$5000.

Richard O'Leary, on being called as a witness, contradicted Murray on several particulars. His story was that in April 1908 Murray was in his office. The conversation was on the fact that the sewer from the public building was not giving satisfaction. O'Leary said that he would be glad to sell the right to construct

another sewer for \$100. Murray asked if he could have for himself anything he could get over the \$100. O'Leary said yes, O'Leary stated that it was absolutely false that he named a figure of \$400 or \$500 and that he made an offer of a rake off. On 4th May Murray telephoned O'Leary, recalled the conversation about the sewer and asked if the offer held good. O'Leary said it did. Murray said he was going to Ottawa to see the Minister of Public Works. O'Leary said that all he wanted was his \$100. After his return to Richibucto Murray came to see O'Leary. The latter asked "How about the sewer?" Murray said, "What will you take for the whole property?" O'Leary first proposed to divide with Murray, all that the latter could get in excess of \$1,000. Murray said no, he wished to make something for himself. Thereupon O'Leary said that the price was \$700 or \$800. Murray asked if O'Leary had any objection to have the consideration appear in the documents as \$1,000. O'Leary consented to this. Murray went to St. John and returned. On his return he visited O'Leary and gave him \$600 saying that that was the price agreed upon. O'Leary said that it had been \$700 or \$800, but agreed to take \$700. It was also agreed that the balance of \$100 should be paid when Murray turned the property over. On the 15th of October Murray gave him \$200, of which \$100 was to complete his wharf transaction and the remainder was to apply on an account which Murray owed him. O'Leary absolutely denied Murray's story about the electric light. He had remarked that very little light was being used, but he had made no proposals to Murray and at the interview on the 15th October Murray had agreed to an increased rate on the electric light. O'Leary added some particulars as to the wharf. His father and he owned it for 20 years. It was in very bad condition and useless. Its present condition is the same as when he sold it, except that about one third has been washed away. He had got every dollar it was worth. O'Leary then related the incident, already noted, of his offering the wharf to the Government. The wharf is of no public use. It was not and is not needed for the shipping of the village as the municipal wharf affords more accommodation than there is shipping to use it. Andrew Loggie had never approached him to purchase. He could have got it for \$700 and so could the Government.

Mr. Loggie, M. P., cross examined O'Leary. His examination consisted of a series of assertions that there is 15 feet of water off the wharf, and that the under-water portions of it retain the original pine crib work. O'Leary positively asserted that the facing of pine had been washed away. "You would not give \$700 for it," he said. O'Leary gave this evidence in a straight-forward and unhesitating manner. "Photographs of the wharf" were handed about the committee, showing it appearing as an irregular, shapeless point of land. Mr. Pugsley cross examined Mr. O'Leary at length. He began by suggesting that the witness was a Conservative. "I am and always have been," said Mr. O'Leary, significantly, "whereas there was loud laughter from the Conservatives. Later Mr. Pugsley found fault with Mr. O'Leary's method of answering questions. "I am not on trial." The witness retorted: "You are." Mr. Pugsley's efforts to prove that the bargain was a good one elicited a series of damaging remarks by the witness. The municipal wharf already bought by the Government, he said, will provide more accommodation than the town will need for the next 25 years. He and the Loggie firm previously had offered the Kent Northern Railway the right of way over their wharves for \$1 a year. His saw-dust wharf had been for sale since 1897. He effected a sale in 1905 for \$500, but the purchaser gave \$50 on account and then abandoned the bargain. Not a vessel had used the wharf since he was a small boy. It then developed that on Dec. 3, 1908, Mr. Pugsley wrote to Mr. O'Leary a letter marked "Confidential" telling him that he had heard that the price was exorbitant and asking him his opinion as to the valuation Mr. Stead had placed upon it. Mr. O'Leary replied on 7th December, telling him that he had received \$700 and that this was its full value, that he had offered it to the Government at substantially the same price, and the price of \$5,000 was most exorbitant. Mr. O'Leary had assumed that Murray was acting as the agent of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Pugsley asked why. "Because not one dollar was spent by the Public Works Department in the town for any purpose except through Mr. T. O. Murray," was the reply.

LOCAL & OTHER ITEMS

Slighting about 100 years ago quite good on Christmas Day, a slight driving was experienced, included in.

Mrs. Hayes and her two children were burned to death at a lodging house nine miles from Elk Lake, Ont.

Walrus are past in the Perry Sound district, Ont. The killing of the animals is disturbing the seal population.

The German steamer Clippa, with a crew of 23, from Hamburg for Genoa, Dec. 1st, is given up for lost.

Three children were burned to death in a house that accidentally caught fire at Pratt Kansas.

Two men fell three hundred feet to the bottom of a mine shaft at Cobalt, Ont., yesterday, and were instantly killed.

Word comes from Haro, V. I., Spain, that a church was crushed by a rock-slide and 200 persons were killed.

Charles L. Murray, M. P., for St. John's, Ont., dropped dead at New York, on Monday, shortly after entering the home of his daughter.

The Edmonton Bulletin reports a decision for Alberta of the day, James D. Hyndman, formerly of Ontario. He led the poll, with 1,324 votes. Good!

Seventy orphan children in New York whose parents perished in the sinking of the steamer General Slocum, attended a special Children's Festival on Christmas night.

Three teachers in an Ontario school were tried yesterday for the charge of unlawfully punishing pupils. The magistrate reserves his decision.

It is announced from Ottawa, that the Government of Canada paid the British Government \$250,000 for the cruiser Rainbow. The work of overhauling the vessel is being hastened. As soon as repairs are completed, it will set out with a British crew for the Canadian station on the Pacific Coast.

Word of a terrible tragedy comes from Cumberland, Maryland. Three men were burned to death at a boarding house. Two other men who boarded in the same house were seriously injured. The fire started after a Christmas celebration by a man who was found and who threatened to burn the house.

Charles Freese, and his brother-in-law, Charles Hillcock, are in the hospital at St. John's, suffering from wounds inflicted in an explosion. The explosion evidently being looking for a watch was struck in the ear an explosion followed immediately, the southern wall of the building being blown entirely out.

Details of damage by the disastrous flood of last week came pouring into San Sebastian, Spain. Only three houses are left standing in Santa Christina, and the rest of the town was the only building to withstand the storm. Bonavent, a town north of O. de Ebro, with a population of 5,000, was under water for five days, during which time all traffic was conducted by boat. The village of Villavieja has been destroyed, and the crops in the Castile parish destroyed.

A telegram from Mr. J. A. Nicholson, Registrar of Motor Vehicles received Monday by Mr. A. A. McLellan, K. C. of this city announced the death at Cobalt, Ont., of his brother, Mr. Stephen Nicholson. This year will be remembered with the greatest regard by hundreds of friends and acquaintances throughout P. E. Island, and especially in Belfast. The deceased was one of the clever sons of the district, celebrated for the able men it has produced in the various walks of life. His family has been brought home to the island for interment.

The solemn religious exercises on the great Feast of Christmas were sojournally carried out in St. Donat's Cathedral, Charlottetown, on the same day as on Sunday. The service, at 10:30, was a Solemn High Mass, with Rev. Theodore Gallant as celebrant; Rev. Father C. Kenyon as preacher; Rev. Donald sub-deacon; and Rev. Dr. McLellan, Master of ceremonies. An excellent sermon was preached by Rev. T. C. Campbell, Rector of St. Donat's College. He was from the Group of the second Mass of the day. Luke 11. 15-20.

The first number of "The University" a quarterly magazine published by the students of St. Donat's College, has come to hand. The publication contains forty-six pages of reading matter and ten pages of advertisements. The original and selected matter is of a high order of merit; the editorial paragraphs are pointed and well written, and the accounts of the students are of an interesting and instructive nature. In a few pages of the magazine attention is drawn to the progress of the University, the whole of the Magazine is highly creditable and all concerned with this College publication are to be congratulated.

On the 21st inst., the financial officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, estimated that the gross revenue of the system for the calendar year would amount to \$100,000,000. This estimate, while only approximate, since the year is not ended, is based on the earnings to date with the probable balance for the balance of the year based on last year's figures. The earnings published monthly include the railway system with the steamships, etc., but not the regular Atlantic and Pacific steamship lines, the hotels, etc. The earnings, as shown, will amount to \$85,000,000 by the end of the year, and when to this is added the gross takings of the two ocean steamship services, hotels, telegraphs, etc., it is estimated that the railway would equal \$100,000,000. A sign of the confidence of the British people in the Canadian Pacific Railway is shown by the fact that although payments on the recent issue of \$30,000,000 stock are not due until January, large sums are already pouring in from the old country.

MARRIED.

SHELDON—McINTYRE—At the home of the bride, Monday, on the evening of the 15th inst., by the Rev. F. A. Wigham, Miss Margaret E. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McLays, Hill Crest Farm, to Emerson Sheldon, of Mt. View.

JARVIS—KNEBONE—At Charlottetown, on Dec. 19th, 1909, by Rev. Geo. E. Ross, John Jarvis to Alice Maude Knebone, daughter of Isaac Knebone, both of St. Patrick's Road.

VINCENT—VINCENT—At the Parsonage, Charlottetown, on Oct. 23rd, 1909, by the Rev. E. A. Westmoreland, Miss M. J. Vincent, of Alma, to W. J. Vincent of the same place.

JONES—BOYER—At Banbury, on the 23rd inst., J. Walter Jones, now of Hampton, Virginia, to Miss Catherine Boyer, of Banbury.

WOOLLEY—HOWARD—At the residence of the bride's father, North River Dec. 23rd, Edward Arthur Woolley of Longon, England, to Edna Isabella Howard.

DIED.

McLEOD—At Lucklow, Ont., on Nov. 20th, 1909, Donald A. McLeod, aged 77 years. Deeply regretted.

NEIL—At Butte, Montana, on Dec. 8th, 1909, Mary, beloved wife of Jas. C. Neil, in the 85th year of her age.

NICHOLSON—At Mt. Vernon, Dec. 12th, 1909, Ann Nicholson, aged 83 years.

McPHEE—In East Boston, Dec. 15th, 1909, Minnie McPhee, formerly of P. E. Island.

HOFFAT—At Mayfield, on Dec. 18th, after a serious illness, Isaac Murray M. P., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Moffat, of that place. Besides his parents, two sisters and two brothers are left to mourn.

ROBERTSON—At Mount Hope, Dec. 20th, Margaret L., beloved wife of James Robertson, aged 47 years. Deeply regretted.

RIGGS—In this city, on the 23rd inst., William F. Riggs, stone-cutter, aged 40 years.

HARRP—In this city, Dec. 28th, after a lingering illness, D. Bruce, aged 8 years and 6 months, eldest son of G. W. and Maggie Harper.

O'HALLORAN—In this city, Dec. 25th, 1909, Mrs. O'Halloran, Great George Street widow of the late Martin O'Halloran. May her soul rest in peace.

NICHOLSON—At Cobalt, of spinal fever, Samuel August Nicholson, son of the late Hon. James Nicholson of Eldon, aged 40 years.

The Market Prices.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Items include Butter (fresh), Lard, Eggs, Flour, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

A Sensible Merchant.

Mrs. Fred. Laine, St. George, Ont., writes: "My little girl would cough so at night that neither she nor I could get any rest. I gave her Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup and am thankful to say it cured her cough quickly."

MEET ME AT The Always Busy Store

How About That Fur Coat for Your Wife

Here are a number of splendid Fur Coats... decided to cut the price and give them out. Don't delay but come the first chance you have and look them over.

Russian Lamb is the next grade to Persian, Bokaharan Lamb is the next grade to Russian. All these being finer goods than the common Astrakan.

Table with 4 columns: Fur, Size, Regular, Reduced Price. Lists prices for Electric Seal, Bokharan Lamb, Russian Lamb, etc.

Stanley Bros.

You can distinguish MacLellan-Made Clothes from other makes, no matter where you see them. At a distance they are distinguished by their distinctive cut and stylish appearance - and at close range the contrast is made more apparent by the faultless workmanship and good material embodied in their make-up. Let us make your next suit. MacLellan Bros. THE EXPERT TAILORS.

WE HAVE IN STOCK

For the Summer Trade a fine selection of TEMPERANCE DRINKS! FRUIT, CONFECTIONERY, etc. If you need anything in Pipes, Tobacco, Cigars or Cigarettes, we can supply you. JAMES KELLY & CO. June 23, 1909-3m.