

The Colonist.

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ALL METAL—Not noticed on Wood.

SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN'S STATEMENT.

The eastern papers that came by Wednesday evening's mail contain the text of Sir Hector Langevin's statement before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is too long for our space, but we give below the general denial of the late Minister of Public Works, and the whole of what he says with reference to the most important of the charges—that of Mr. Owen E. Murphy:

Immediately after the night had been read at the Tarte-McGrevey committee Sir Hector Langevin said and said: Mr. Chairman—I have seen, as many others, the minutes of the proceedings of this committee, and finding my name was connected with this enquiry, I have thought fit to come here of my own accord and ask to be put on oath to make a statement to the committee. Sir Hector Langevin having been duly sworn, then spoke as follows:

I regret that in consequence of the manner in which, as respects myself, this enquiry originated, I have been obliged to appear to be passive while charges of the gravest character have been accumulated against me by the slow and unusual process of adding evidence upon them before they were fully and completely communicated to me. If Mr. Tarte, when he brought me accusations in the House of Commons on the 11th of May, 1891, had made his charges directly against me, I would have at once, pending the enquiry, put my resignation as Minister of Public Works in the hands of the Prime Minister, in accordance with the custom followed in such cases in England.

But his statement apparently aimed only at Mr. McGrevey, and the facts with which he subsequently connected my name were not stated at the time as directly implicating me in any improper act, or as indicating on my part any guilty object, or any intention of officiating in my duty, and, in so far as they seemed directed towards my conduct, they were vague and indeterminate.

But, when the evidence came to be adduced before the committee, it became plain that it was intended to assail me directly, and even then the charges intended to be made against me were not stated at once in full, but left to be gradually developed by the evidence, so that it was not until Mr. Tarte's case was completed last week that I became fully aware of the imputations against my official conduct.

From these facts it may be easily understood why I was not represented at the committee as the enquiry, as undoubtedly would have been my course, in justice to myself, if, by being informed of the accusations to be levelled against me, I had been given the opportunity of defending myself. Now, however, I know whereof I am accused; I have to answer and to explain; I intend to meet the accusations by the most positive denial, but I feel bound at once to lay my resignation as Minister of Public Works in the hands of the Prime Minister, so that my colleagues, as well as the committee and the House of Commons may have the greatest amount of information in judging my action and the value of the accusations brought against me. To-day I ask to be allowed to make under oath a statement of my conduct in the several matters enquired into. I wish here to meet all the accusations, either direct or indirect, which, according to me, are found in the evidence. I hope none will escape my notice. I begin by declaring that in all the departments mentioned before the committee I have fulfilled my duty most conscientiously to the best of my knowledge and of my ability, without ever having allowed anyone to influence me by promises or gifts of any kind whatever, and that my acts have always had the public interest as their object; that I have received no gifts, loans or values whatever, directly or indirectly, from the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. or from any of its members; that in truth Mr. Thomas McGrevey and I have been for a long time on friendly terms, and that he has been my guest at Ottawa in the period from 1878 to 1890, whilst I resided here as minister, and during which I did not receive from him, and he never offered me, any sum of money, gift or loan; that Mr. Thomas McGrevey had never tried, directly or, to my knowledge, indirectly, to influence me unduly in the execution of my duty, nor to obtain, directly or, to my knowledge, indirectly, verbal information or documents that my duty would have required me to hold as private; that I never authorized anyone to communicate to him any such information, and he has received none from my knowledge; that I did not know before Mr. Tarte introduced evidence on the subject that Mr. Robert H. McGrevey was a partner with Messrs. Larkin, Connolly & Co., or interested in their concerns, and that Mr. Thomas McGrevey never gave me reason for sus-

pecting that he was personally interested, directly or indirectly, in their works; that I always had full confidence in the integrity and capability of the Chief Engineer of the Public Works (Mr. Perley), and of the other officers of my department who had anything to do with the works which have been inquired into; that up to the time Mr. Perley admitted it, I did not know that he had received any gift from the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., or from any of its members; that, therefore, not being myself an engineer, I considered I was justified in accepting and treating as correct the statement of the chief engineer, and to adopt his advice about works of which, on account of their special nature, I was not competent, personally, to form an accurate idea.

THE ALLEGED MONEY PAYMENTS. Payments of sums of money by the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co. I have already sworn that I never received money from this firm or from any of its members. However, wishing to refer more specially to the charges made against me by certain witnesses, I shall now take them separately.

(1.) In answer to the charge made by Mr. O. E. Murphy, that he gave me in my house in Quebec, on two different occasions, a total of \$25,000, making in all \$10,000, I have to say that O. E. Murphy was only in my house, when he came to occupy one of the assistant engineers of the Quebec Harbor Commission, was too hard on the contractors for the works. My answer was that those officers not being Government officers, the complaint of the contractors should be made to the Quebec Harbor Board and not to me. I add that Mr. O. E. Murphy did not speak to me about money, gift or loan; that he did not offer to loan or pay me any sum of money, and I never asked him for money.

(2.) In answer to the statement made by the said O. E. Murphy that Nicholas K. Connolly told him that he had given to my son for me, and also to me personally, each \$5,000, making in all \$10,000, I swear positively that the said Nicholas K. Connolly did not pay me directly or indirectly any sum of money, and especially said above mentioned sums of \$5,000, and he did not pay my son any sum of money as far as my knowledge goes.

(3.) In answer to the statement made by the said O. E. Murphy that Mr. Thomas McGrevey told him that he had given to me either as a whole or in two or more payments, nor was any other sum of money paid to me as stated by the said O. E. Murphy, and I never asked the said Thomas McGrevey for any such sum of money.

(4.) In answer to the statement made by the said O. E. Murphy that he came to me on the 11th of May, 1891, and told him that his associates had the contract of the Equimault graving dock at something less than the price of the highest of the two others received they would give an interest of 25 per cent. on the contract. I add that I never positively that he never came to me for any such purpose, and never made me directly or indirectly any such proposal or offer, and I may also add that O. E. Murphy never spoke to me on the subject of the contract for the Equimault dock before or after the contract was awarded to Larkin, Connolly & Co.

THE THREE RIVERS INSTANTION. (5.) To the instigation or charge made in this enquiry that \$5,000 was sent to Three Rivers to be used in the purchase of land, positively that before this instigation or charge was brought before this committee I had not heard it made and I never knew, and do not know, of any such sum having been sent to Three Rivers, and I add on my oath that said sum never was given or sent to me or to any one else with my knowledge for such or any other purpose, directly or indirectly.

ANABCHY IN CHILE. SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17.—A correspondent writing from Santiago, Chile, under date of June 21, says Balmaceda has issued \$12,000,000 of 50-cent paper money, and that it is compulsory on all to receive it. The regiment so highly extolled by the government, and which retreated from Tarapaca through the Argentine Republic, and thence across the Andes, arrived 200 miles from Santiago, where they received their pay and were granted five days' leave of absence, since which time they have failed to put in an appearance. Balmaceda has issued a proclamation for an increase of \$100,000,000 of 50-cent paper money. The correspondent says: Throughout all the departments in the hands of Balmaceda, soldiers in squads are picking up "volunteers," which means that every man they get hold of is forced into the ranks. It is believed that this is bad policy, for these volunteers do not wish to fight their own countrymen, and are most of them sympathizers with the Opposition. If one can judge by the past, when the time comes for battle many of them will change sides. The "volunteers" often times are sleeping in their beds and are suddenly awakened by poundings at their door, with threats that if they do not open they will force an entrance. A man is thus forcibly seized and is hurried into his clothes in spite of the expectations of his family, who will and should be informed by the first opportunity with a gang of others. Many towns and farms are stripped of men, and the hills are full of men hiding away from their pursuers.

Half-Million Dollar-Fire. JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 18.—A half-million dollar-fire this morning destroyed 55 buildings, including Knights crockery house, and the Hibbard Block, in which was located the Western Union telegraph office, and half a dozen other large concerns, the Tremont House, Seminoles Club, Smith Building, Hotel Placide, Chelsea House, Murray "Coke" Crockery warehouse, St. Joseph's convent, the Retriever restaurant, and Lloyd Bros. carriage works. The buildings for four streets back from Bay street, and a strip of two squares wide, were burned. An explosion of dynamite on Forsyth street made the fire uncontrollable, and injured many people, but none seriously. The insurance is light. Many other buildings in the vicinity of the business portions were badly damaged, and some were completely gutted.

Discovery of a New Metal. PITTSBURG, Aug. 17.—A series of experiments by Thomas Harrison, of this city, into the properties and uses of nickel steel and he has received none from my knowledge; that I did not know before Mr. Tarte introduced evidence on the subject that Mr. Robert H. McGrevey was a partner with Messrs. Larkin, Connolly & Co., or interested in their concerns, and that Mr. Thomas McGrevey never gave me reason for sus-

COURT OF REVISION.

Good Citizens Crowd the Boom Eager to Secure a Reduction of Taxes.

Big Batch of Cases Considered and Passed Upon at Yesterday's Session.

The City Council sat as a court of revision at the City Hall, at 11 a.m., yesterday, His Worship Mayor Grant in the chair, and the full board present.

Over one hundred petitions for the reduction of assessments were presented by property owners, many of whom attended in person or were represented by counsel.

Among the appeals considered were the following: J. P. Walls, application that assessment on improvements be reduced to \$1,000. Grant.

J. E. McMillan, not present, and consideration of application referred. Mrs. L. Couves, application for reduction denied, and assessment ordered to stand.

On lot 31, section 1, Beckley farm, on Toronto street, Thomas C. Nuttall, owner; assessment on improvements reduced from \$700 to \$500, but that of \$800 on the land referred to. Assessment ordered to stand.

Mrs. Mary Hodge's lots 18 and 19, Spring Ridge, on Johnson street, assessed at \$900 each. Reduction refused. Improvements assessed at \$2,700, reduced to \$2,250.

George Chahar's petition for reduction of assessment on lot 223, block 24, and on improvements on same was refused. It is the Windsor Hotel corner. Lots 12 and 13, block 24, and a frontage of three streets. It is assessed at \$19,000 and the improvements at \$3,000.

B. Maguire applied for relief from assessment on land and improvements, lot 143, block 10, Toronto street, assessed at \$1,200. The assessment of \$900 on the land was confirmed, and that of \$500 against improvements reduced to \$1,200 to \$600.

Drake, Jackson & Helmsken, for Hon. Justice Crease, alleging overvaluation of the property assessed as Pentecost. Adjourning until Thursday.

Isabella Barlow, assessment on improvements, reduced to \$600. G. Richardson, appeal from assessment of \$100, block 22, at \$19,000, and the improvements at \$3,000; action deferred.

H. J. Heritage, assessment reduced to \$1,300. S. J. Styles, assessments for improvements on lots 382, 383, and 384, reduced to \$500. On improvements on lot 388, \$200 was taken off.

W. C. Ward, for Bank of B. C., assessment ordered to stand. G. Heaslett, assessment on land reduced to \$2,000 per acre.

J. E. McMillan, appeal laid over. The board then adjourned until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The court of revision sat again, yesterday, at the city hall, opening its session at 2 o'clock p.m. His Worship Mayor Grant occupied the chair most of the time, although when called away for a short while Alderman Smith presided. There were present Aldermen Renouf, Holland, Richards, Robertson, McKillop and Smith.

Several large property holders were present, and, as agreed on Tuesday at the hour of adjournment, their claims were first taken up, thereby expediting the business of the court to a considerable degree.

The first to appear before the board was Mr. Roderick Finlayson, who protested against the amounts assessed on several pieces of his property. He claimed that he was assessed on 31 acres on the Edmonton Road, whereas only 20 acres were within the city limits. He objected to paying city taxes on the 11 acres outside of the limits. The complaint was laid on the table for further consideration.

On his Wharf street property he was assessed for 151 feet of land \$52,800, and on the improvements on the same, \$29,000. The rents of the same had decreased \$800 per year since 1885, and he asked for a reduction of 4 per cent. on its assessed value. This matter was also laid over.

THE WORLD GROWING COLDER.

New York Sun. The French astronomer Camille Flammarion said the other day that for the past five years a remarkable change in the climate of Europe had been in progress and that, both the winters and the summers were growing colder.

It is probably useless to speculate upon the climatic vagaries to which Mr. Flammarion calls attention. Sufficient data has not elapsed to have sufficient data been accumulated upon which to base any trustworthy conclusions as to whether the colder weather of the past few years indicates a permanent tendency toward lower temperatures in latitudes as far south as the Arctic circle as those of Central Europe.

A very interesting fact, however, has been clearly established, namely, that the northern limit of the inhabited or inhabitable world is now much further south than it was in past ages; and scientific men attribute this fact to the increasing refrigeration of the north Polar regions.

The Paris Ethnological society did not carry out the purpose it announced in 1892 of establishing the northern boundary of the inhabited world; but this work has since been accomplished very carefully by a German geographer, Dr. Kurt Hassert, who has published his book upon "The North Polar Boundary of the Inhabited and Inhabitable World."

In the map which accompanies this interesting work, Dr. Hassert indicates by a blue line the present northern limit of human habitations, and by a red line the northern boundary of the former homes of mankind, so far as it has been revealed through the ruins and remains discovered by explorers.

In studying this map we first observe that North America is extended by the great archipelago north of it very much further toward the north pole than the Euro-Asiatic continent, which is in the present day, and is the only important prolongation toward the pole. The Lapps, the Samoyeds, the Tchoukches, and other races of Euro-Asia are to-day found only on the northern coast line. The only important traces of man in the Eastern hemisphere, north of the present line of occupancy, are found in the Siberian islands, northeast of the Lena delta. These are not inhabited, though they certainly have been.

It is Greenland, therefore, and the archipelago north of our own continent that we must look for conclusive evidence that climatic or other conditions have driven man far south of the regions he once occupied.

The most northern people of the world, to-day, are the handful of Eskimos, supposed to be about 100 in number, called the Betsi natives, who live upon the west coast of Greenland, between 76 degrees and 78 degrees north latitude. For many years after Kane came home with his vivid and absorbing story of these isolated natives, they were supposed to have built their huts in the pole than any other human beings. We know now, however, that Bessels, Nares and Greely found numerous traces of human occupancy north of the pole than any other human beings.

THE AMERICAN NEWS. Horsewhipped by a Woman. CHICAGO, August 18.—To-day in a crowded room Mrs. Edward McMahon horsewhipped a millionaire, and his lawyer, and then lauded in her husband's arms. The millionaire was Peter Smith, contractor, and the lawyer was F. McHugh. The cause of the assault was the reading of a deposition by a Canadian detective, impugning Mrs. McMahon's chastity. The horsewhipping is the climax of a series of sensations growing out of a long-standing feud between the two men.

THE WIRAT MARKET. CHICAGO, Aug. 17.—Wholesale opened excited and wild on advanced demand from the shorts to a point three and a half cents above Saturday's closing. Then it was discovered that the houses acting for New York and having foreign connections were selling the market wide and taking a heavy loss on the part of holders and there was a rapid decline until the close. December reached \$1.02, the closing price, and three and a half cents lower than Saturday. Receipts \$1,022 cars. Closing prices: August, 1.02; September, \$1.00; December, \$1.02; \$1.08.

THE GREAT ENGLISH PRESCRIPTION. A successful medicine used over 20 years in thousands of cases. Cures SPRAINED JOINTS, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, RHEUMATISM, AND ALL diseases caused by abuse, indiscretion or over-exertion. Six packages contained in one case, and sent by mail for \$1.00. Write for Pamphlet. Address: EUREKA CHEMICAL CO., 123 BROADWAY, N. Y.

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B. C. AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL EXHIBITION IN THEIR NEW BUILDING AT THE DRIVING PARK VICTORIA, B. C.

Sept. 29 and 30, Oct. 1, 2 and 3. SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS: Extensive Prize List, Northwest Firemen's Association Tournament, Horse Racing, Fireworks, Sports of all kinds.

J. P. DAVIES & CO., AUCTIONEERS. AUCTION! WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26. We have received instructions from Mr. W. Russell, Farm, to sell the following property:

STRAWBERRY VALE FARM, BURNSIDE ROAD, AT 12 O'CLOCK, NOON. TWO OLDYEADE MARES. Both in foal by Simpson's pedigree horse. 1 TWO-YEAR-OLD GELDING, will make a first-class roadster. 1 Pure Bred Berkshire Brood Sow, ALSO—

Young Boar and Sow, pure bred Berkshire, first-class Family Carriage, suitable for livery, 1 Stock of Wheat, 1 Farm, 1 Wagon, 1 Dump Cart, 1 Harness, 1 Household Furniture, 1 Bedstead, 1 Bed, 1 Blanket, 1 Carpet, 1 Table, 1 Chair, 1 Croquet, etc. 1000 lbs. of barbed brooch leading Gun, Winchester Rifle and Ammunition, 76 degrees and 78 degrees north latitude. For many years after Kane came home with his vivid and absorbing story of these isolated natives, they were supposed to have built their huts in the pole than any other human beings.

J. P. DAVIES & CO., AUCTIONEERS. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. THE UNDERSIGNED, Importers and Dealers in Teas, hereby notify the Trade generally that the letters "M M" are one of their specific trade marks, and name for Teas imported and sold by them. As such trade marks are registered in Ottawa, Canada, at the Department of Agriculture, Copyright and Trademark Branch, all persons or firms using said trade mark will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

SIEGFRIED & BRANDENSTEIN, SAN FRANCISCO. FARMS FOR SALE. ON AND NEAR COWICHAN BAY. Partially improved. 10 to 1500 acres, churches and schools in easy distance. Cheap cash. Apply GEO. BARTLETT, Cowichan, B. C.

NOTICE is hereby given that sixty days after date I intend to apply to the Honorable Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 100 acres of land, more or less, situated on the Cumbeva Inlet, Moreby Inlet, and described as follows:—Commencing at a north-east corner post, then running south along shore 40 chains; then west 40 chains to point of commencement.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

60 days after date I intend to apply to the Honorable Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to make application to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 100 acres of land, more or less, situated on the Cumbeva Inlet, Moreby Inlet, and described as follows:—Commencing at a north-east corner post, then running south along shore 40 chains; then west 40 chains to point of commencement.

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