

THE HERALD

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Ottawa Weekly Letter.

THE PRESTON CASE

Mr. Monk asks for his Removal.

Because of Secret Dealing with Leopold.

Contrary to declared Government Policy.

Also because of the Fraudulent Contract.

And Disorganization of the Service.

The Minister Pleads for Time.

So that he May Deal with Preston—Mr Broden and the Montcalm Tableware—The Auditor's Long Hunt for the Ice-Breaking Silver.—Traced at last to the State Room.—An "R. P." Package.—Marine Officials are Pleased with Merwin.—And he is Satisfied with Them.

OTTAWA, July 7, 1906.

On Tuesday following Dominion Day Mr Monk moved that "W. T. R. Preston, inspector of emigration should be no longer continued in that office." In a careful review of before the facts brought out in the evidence the committee Mr Monk gave substantial reasons for his resolution. He showed clearly by letters written by Mr Preston himself to the agent in Liverpool of the Allan Line that the Commissioner had encouraged and assisted the notorious Leopold's labor bureau. While the Government at Ottawa announced that its distinct policy was that no emigrants except agricultural classes and domestic servants were sought by government agents, Mr Preston, was secretly assisting in the enterprise of sending mechanics and artisans in wholesale lots.

PRESTON TO ENNIS.

Mr Preston wrote to the Allan Line manager that his friend Leopold was prepared to furnish laboring men for Canada who "for very obvious reasons cannot be handled through the department." Again he wrote commending the Labor Bureau enterprise and its objects of furnishing Canadian employers with mechanical and skilled labor. "Although," he said, "I am not supposed to know anything about the workings of the Company," he further informed Manager Ennis that "in view of the action of the labor party in Canada" he was not surprised that an institution of this kind had commenced operations.

THE PRESTON LEOPOLD BUREAU.

Of course this letter was very confidential. Preston's relations with Leopold, who is accused of deceiving artisans by promising them employment in Canada were also secret. But Leopold was installed at Mr Preston's suggestion in the same building where the government office was, and from this place he sent out circulars promising unlimited employment at fabulous wages to all kinds of mechanics. At the same time Mr Preston himself was sending out circulars recommending mechanics to apply to Leopold's agency. During this whole period the department at Ottawa, of which Mr Preston was a servant, was solemnly assuring the public that its agents had been instructed to encourage no emigration except that of farmers, farm laborers and domestic servants.

TIME FOR A CHARGE.

The second ground of Mr Monk's resolution was the connection of Mr Preston with the North Atlantic Trading Company. The contract under which this mysterious and bogus organization has drawn more than a quarter of a million dollars from the people of Canada was made by Mr Preston. From the begin-

ning it abounded in frauds and misrepresentations. Mr Preston's connection with it is of the most suspicious character and all his efforts and activities seem to have been directed to the advantage of the company of which his own associates in England believe him to be a member. Mr Monk went fully into these matters and argued that since Mr Preston was apparently concerned on the side of the company, and since the commissioner was the person who should check and inspect the company's operations on behalf of the Government, it was time, that he should be replaced by an independent officer.

A SCANDALOUS CONDITION.

Lastly it was pointed out by Mr Monk, as it was afterwards by Mr Borden and others, that the relations between the commissioner and the men about him were a disgrace to the service and a sufficient reason for change. The chief clerk in the High Commissioner's office at the port of Liverpool had accused Preston of falsehood and perjury, and affirmed both here and in England that Preston was growing rich by his connection with the North Atlantic Company, the labor bureau, and other dishonest operations. Another of Mr Preston's officers had connected him with improper financial dealings in Government printing. The chief clerk in the High Commissioner's office strongly condemned him, while Lord Strathcona had flatly contradicted the sworn statements of Mr Preston concerning the High Commissioner's relations with the North Atlantic deal.

On the other hand Mr Preston had declared agent Jury to be a thief, a swindler and a liar. He had accused his own chief clerk of slander and malfeasance in office. He had charged the chief officer in the High Commissioner's establishment with conniving at burglary and of using documents knowing them to be stolen. The leader of the Opposition showed that this state of discipline ought not to continue.

OFFICIAL SATISFIED WITH MERWIN.

Not more successful was the Minister of Marine in his attempt to explain away the Merwin contracts. He had on the stand, his chief officer of the lighthouse service, Mr J.F. Fraser. Mr Fraser believed that the price paid for gas buoys, lighthouse lanterns, gas holders and submarine equipment, all bought from Merwin for \$835 after the Montreal dealer had made his profit over the manufacturer's price. He thought it all right to pay \$1,250 for a steel derrick which the Government could have bought from the middleman, as Merwin did, for \$756, or from the Canadian manufacturer, as the middleman did, for about \$600. With this confession before us we can judge of the capacity of Commissioner Fraser to buy prudently three or four hundred thousand dollars worth of apparatus, made abroad and handled by this same skilled and delicate Mr Merwin.

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED.

After Mr Brodeur has made the defence so far the suspicion is strengthened that these Marine transactions ought to be the subject of a stern public enquiry. Some of the men whom the Minister of Marine has about him should be forced to a severe accounting. There is not the slightest doubt that the public has been plundered by tens of thousands and probably by hundreds of thousands in the Marine Department expenditure alone and there is reason to fear that the thieves are still at large and conducting their operations.

THE ICE-BREAKING TABLEWARE.

The Minister of Marine has taken a week to prepare the defence before the public accounts committee in the matter of the Merwin and Coughlin contracts. Down to Friday night he has not made any headway. The evidence of his own officers and other officials did not help him out. Mr Brodeur brought in the Auditor-General and the attempt was made to prove by him that the overcharge of one-third in Coughlin's bill for plate and table ware for the ice-breaker Montcalm was discovered by the Department itself. But Auditor General Fraser gave contrary testimony. He declared that the overcharge was discovered in his office, and that he sent

for the Deputy Minister of Marine and told him about it. Both Coughlin, who got the money, and Deputy Minister Gourdon told the Auditor that Coughlin was to be paid only five per cent for purchasing the goods. When the bill came in there was a charge of more than thirty per cent profit and five per cent commission besides. The five per cent was the first refunded. The Auditor stated that he could not get the original invoices from the Marine Department, but had to obtain them by independent means. Then the business was figured out and Mr Coughlin made a further refund of more than eleven hundred dollars. Still later, and since, the whole matter was exposed, the Deputy Minister had made a new discovery which was that the five per cent calculation was all a mistake. He seems to think now that Coughlin's original bill was all right and that the refund was an imposition.

THE AUDITOR'S SEARCH FOR

The Auditor further testified he visited the Montcalm at Quebec to see whether the \$3,000 order of plate was all on board of her or had been carried off as some reported. He found some of the articles in the place where the tableware should be. There was not room for most of it. The largest part of these fruit stands, coffee pots, tea pots and wine glasses were stored away in the stateroom. Mr Fraser came back with the impression that this extraordinary ice-breaking outfit was somewhere in the ship though he could not be certain. He found also that with this luxurious order there had come an additional parcel of silver marked "R. P." Mr Coughlin, who brought the goods over was asked about this package by Mr Fraser and told him that it was none of his business, as the bill for this package was not sent to the Government. The intervention of the R. P. lot in the Montcalm silver ware caused some confusion in the accounts for duty and in the inspection.

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DIED

At Hope River on Sunday July 8th, of heart failure, Mary Ellen Pendergraft, daughter of the late James Pendergraft. May her soul rest in peace. The cows, valued at \$500, were killed by lightning on the farm of B. Sage, Folden's Cove, near Ingonish, Ont., during a severe electrical storm last Wednesday night. The animals had taken shelter under a tree and they were all killed outright.

Death of William McGrath, Esquire.

On the evening of the 9th instant, Wm. McGrath, Esq., of Millville, departed this life, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. The deceased had only been ill a few days and his death came as a shock to his beloved wife, relatives and friends. He died surrounded by those who were near and dear to him, yet while they felt keenly the loss of one so highly esteemed and beloved, the crushing blow did not fall upon them as upon those who mourn without hope.

The deceased had been a resident of Millville for over thirty years, previously residing at Black River. In his young manhood he settled down to his chosen vocation, agriculture. Intelligent, progressive, industrious and of an enquiring turn of mind, he was eminently successful in his chosen calling. Notwithstanding unbounded hospitality, for he was openhearted and generous in the extreme, and liberality both in religious and charitable benefactions, he was possessed at the time of his death of the goods of this world in no stinted measure.

Wednesday morning friends and acquaintances of his own settlement and the environs, from the city and more distant parts came thronging to the funeral. After prayers had been offered for the soul of the deceased, the funeral service, almost a mile in length, moved onward to the Corran Ban Church, where a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated by the Rev. Thomas Campbell (others of the Reverend clergy, including the Rev. Father McGuigan, P. P., being within the sanctuary), at the conclusion of which the Rev. Dr. Gregory McLellan delivered an eloquent address on the imminence of death and the necessity of being ever ready for the call, touchingly referred to the exemplary life of the deceased as a worthy standard for their imitation. The celebrant and the clergy with their attendants moving on to the bier, recited the prayers for the dead, the choir joining with the Libera, after which the remains were borne to the adjoining cemetery and there laid to rest to await the great awakening upon the last day—laid to rest on a typical summer day when the surrounding country looked its very best, having just been refreshed by passing showers. But what does it matter whether here below we live in the sunshine of primeval summer and of continual flowery bloom, or whether the seasons be varied and changeable and that the biting blasts and blinding storms of winter predominate, there is for us the consolation only and the hope is the inheritance of all that there is a home beyond the grave where there is rest, eternal rest.

The deceased was held in high esteem not only by his co-religionists, but by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, irrespective of creed, as was evidenced by the number of representatives of other religious bodies present at these last sad rites. The pallbearers were Messrs Patrick Morris, Angus McAnuly, Michael Ready, Ronald McIntyre, Richard Mahar and Daniel Mullins. The deceased leaves him surviving, his wife, Mrs. Amelia Campbell, and three brothers, Messrs. Peter McGuigan of Charlottetown, James McGrath, of Covehead, and Moses McGrath, of New Mexico, who then present in the Province with his wife visiting friends and relatives, after an absence of over thirty years. R. I. P.

Steamers Collide.

The Hamburg American line steamer Deutschland which left Hamburg on Thursday for New York while leaving England, Friday morning collided with the steamer Prince of Wales and smashed her stem. The steamer immediately anchored off the Admiralty pier to ascertain the extent of damage she had sustained and it was found that she was unable to proceed this morning, and docked for repairs. The Deutschland was split from her rails to keel but her watertight compartments prevented her making much water. Her passengers and mails were landed and sent to Southampton where they will be taken on board the American line steamer "Monmouth." The Deutschland will return to Hamburg for repairs.

Disorder & Bloodshed.

The French courts have reversed the verdict against Alfred Dreyfus and declared him innocent of the charges against him. In pursuance of the decision of the court, his Government has restored Dreyfus and Picquart to the army and have promoted them to the positions to which they would have attained by this time in the ordinary course of events. The enactment of this law in the Chamber of Deputies, Paris, on Friday night last, has produced a scene of tumultuous disorder, and was followed by a bloody duel in which the under Secretary of State Sarraut was dangerously wounded by the sword of Pagliesi-Conti. The duel assumed the aspect of a veritable combat between the government and the opposition as Sarraut seconds were Ministers Clemenceau and Thomson, while those of Pagliesi-Conti were M. Milevaye and General Jacquet, who were drawn from the elements which bitterly resist the government's rehabilitation of Dreyfus. The meeting followed a fight on the floor of the Chamber of Deputies in which M. Sarraut sprang from the side of the Minister of the Interior, Clemenceau, sitting on the Ministerial benches on M. Pagliesi, who had been heaping denunciation on the members of government as scoundrels. Sarraut struck Pagliesi-Conti a stunning blow in the face. A scene of the widest uproar ensued compelling the suspension of the session. It was after the close of the session that the duel occurred.

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A store where ladies' ready-to-wear garments could be purchased as correct in style and as reasonable in price as those shown in the large Montreal and Toronto stores has been a long felt want in Charlottetown. In adding such a department to this store we felt certain of its success and we are glad to be able to report large sales daily—greatly exceeding our expectations. Our fitting on room is much appreciated and an expert dress-maker will make any alterations without delay. We keep this department up-to-date by constantly adding new styles. For instance yesterday we received

More Stylish Cravenettes.

Stylish dark grey Cravenette coats in entirely new styles. The fabric is a medium heavy weight, thoroughly water-proof, trimmed with buttons and tabs. Special at \$10.00. An elegant coat in seven-eighth length, made in plain style with strapping at back—has fancy cuff and patch pockets, fawn and dark grey shades. Special at \$8.25. Handsome Empire style Cravenette in rich olive green shades belted back. A very pleasing garment at a low price. Special at \$7.00. Novelty Cravenette Coat in grey Empire style with pleated back. Has deep collar of rich green velvet with eight rows of braiding. A striking garment. Special at \$11.50.

Swagger Tourist Coats.

Novelty Swagger Tourist Coats in light shades of grey, fawn and greens, seven eighth length; made of the pure wool Hewson Tweeds in fancy check effects, faultlessly tailored, the celebrated Britannia Manufacture, Empire style in both plain and belted styles. Special at \$8.25.

New York Linen Suits.

Another Lot in Newest Styles. Comfort in hot weather depends largely upon your clothing. Invest in a New York linen suit, stylish, cool and decidedly economical. Not enough of them to make them common. Stylish and up-to-date suits in the new pony box effect made of good quality union butchers linen, has tailor made notched collar, strapped front and back, double breasted coat and latest style skirt. Well tailored and finished. White only. Special \$5.98.

PROWSE BROS., Ltd.

Dresses for Little Tots

And Hats and Coats. Quite an imposing array of stylish toggerly for the little folks received yesterday. It's such swell stuff that it almost puts the grown up people's toggerly in the shade. Those who have seen it are in rapture over it, and we would be glad to show it to you also if you're interested.

Infant's Silk and Muslin Robes.

Infants' robes of fine Swiss Muslin prettily made with embroidered yoke—has insertion setting on skirt and embroidery flounce; neck and sleeves val. lace trimmed. Special at \$1.98. An elegant robe of Japanese wash silk most elaborately and handsomely trimmed. The yoke is of silk with French val. insertion—skirt of solid tucking, alternated with six rows of French val. lace; flounce prettily filled with two rows lace insertion; yoke and cuffs edged with silk galoon. Special \$4.25.

Pelices and Silk Dresses.

Children's pelices of fine cream cashmere, cape deeply embroidered in silk—neck trimmed with silk soutache braid. For two to four years. Special at \$2.25. Children's French dresses of Jap wash silk beautifully made, elaborately shirred and embroidered, trimmed with pretty soutache braid. For three to five years special at \$2.98. Dresses of Jap wash silk, front of solid tucking with hemstitched yoke of val. lace cuffs and collar val. lace trimmed—flounce of fine val. lace, 5 to 7 years, special at \$3.00.

"Buster Brown" Sailor Suits.

Stylish "Buster Brown" sailor suits of fine Sicilian prettily trimmed silk braid—have silk sailor tie. In cream, navy, brown, for three to five years, splendidly made, pretty and inexpensive. Special at \$2.50. "Buster Brown" sailor suits, collar embroidered, stars in red silk front and back, kilted skirt, red silk sailor tie. For five to 7 years. In brown cream siciliana. Special at \$2.98. Misses' sailor suits of fine brown and navy siciliana deep sailor collar embroidered with silk star front and back. Vest front has large embroidered anchor, pretty flounce skirt. For 10 to 13 years. Special \$4.40.

Russian Blouse of Corduroy.

Very swell suits of corduroy, brown and cardinal, in the Russian blouse style. Made in very pleasing style, trimmed with silk van dyke braid, 3 to 7 years. Ladies are unanimous in praising this handsome little suit. Special at \$4.90.

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We have made arrangements that enable us to place within the reach of a limited number of deserving students, opportunities for securing, on easy terms, a classical or commercial education. A little work during the vacation season will secure this for the one worthily striving for such a boon, but who may not be in possession of sufficient money to realize his heart's desire. The facilities at our disposal enable us to offer a year's board and tuition at

St. Dunstan's College

to any three young men who will fulfill the necessary, easy conditions required. These may be beginners, or former students of the College who have not been able to complete their course. In addition to this we have at our disposal four scholarships at the

Union Commercial College

of Charlottetown. A full course in this excellent Commercial College may be won by any four young men or women, in town or country, who will fulfill the easy conditions we require. Whenever anyone satisfies the requirements in either of the cases enumerated he or she will be given a certificate entitling the holder to the educational advantages offered. A rare opportunity is here placed within reach of those desirous of acquiring a good education, and no time should be lost in taking advantage thereof. Only a little work is required in order to secure the coveted boon, and all can easily be accomplished during this summer's vacation, so that the winners may enter either college at the opening of the next academic year.

For particulars apply in person or by letter to the editor of the HERALD, P. O. Box 1288, Charlottetown, P. E. I. June 20, 1906—t