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POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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JOHN A. JOWES, Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1890.

For the Latest Telegraphic News look on the First Page.

THE BLAIR INQUIRY.

Dr. Atkinson's fishing expedition, known as the Blair inquiry, has experienced a complete collapse. In spite of the most earnest endeavors to connect Mr. Blair with the charges preferred against him by the member for Carleton county, not a single particle of evidence has been adduced which in the remotest degree substantiates those accusations. The *coup de grace* was given to the whole charge yesterday by the testimony of Mr. Blair himself, which will be found in full elsewhere in this issue of THE GAZETTE, and which we recommend all our readers who are interested in the matter to peruse with care. They will find in it a complete exoneration of Mr. Blair from any complicity or connection with any alleged plot or scheme for the receipt of money from Mr. Leary as a consideration for the the granting of the dock contract or for any other purpose. Mr. Blair throughout the whole negotiations connected with the dock scheme acted in the most impartial manner, and did not display the slightest preference for either of the parties who desired to obtain the contract for the dock, except as his preference was determined finally by the fact that Mr. Leary had received the indorsement of the Common Council of the city of St. John, without which it was impossible to proceed. That was the sole basis of Mr. Leary obtaining the contract, and not the corrupt and scandalous bargain which Dr. Atkinson, Mr. Hanington and other members of the opposition have sought to place upon the government. Every one, we believe, in the province will be glad at the complete vindication of Mr. Blair's government from this serious charge.

AN ACADIAN JUDGE.

The appointment of Mr. P. A. Landry, M. P. for the county of Kent, to the position of county court judge is a matter of considerable interest. Mr. Landry is the first Acadian that has ever sat in the House of Commons of Canada and the first man of that race who has been appointed to a high judicial office.

Mr. Landry, prior to his advent into the political arena at Ottawa had made for himself a good reputation in the legislature in which he sat for many years, as his father did before him. He was a member of the government for some time and filled the offices of Chief Commissioner of Board of Works and Provincial Secretary very acceptably. It is very pleasing to THE GAZETTE to be able to record the appointment of the first of the Acadian people to the important and responsible office of County Court Judge, and such an appointment must be regarded as one of the best signs of the advancement these people are making intellectually as well as materially. The ancestors of Mr. Landry have been in this country for upwards of two hundred years and therefore have fully established their claims, to be ancient inhabitants. The Acadian people in these modern days are amongst the most substantial elements that the Maritime Provinces possess. They are industrious and are rapidly advancing in educational and other qualifications requisite to good citizenship.

By the aid of the college at Memramcook, which lies in the midst of a large Acadian population, they will, in the course of time, greatly widen the sphere of their intellectual development. A few years hence, the appointment of an Acadian to any position in the gift of the government of Canada will not be the subject of any particular remark. We congratulate Mr. Landry upon his appointment, and feel satisfied that he will prove himself as well fitted for the duties of that position as he was for the various offices which he has already held under the crown.

THE ST. JOHN CONSTITUENCIES.

The Daily Telegraph is the only St. John newspaper which has made an attempt to justify the giving of two members to the county of St. John, which is proposed to be done by the bill now before the legislature. The argument which the Telegraph used to sustain this contention was of such a flimsy character as to be unworthy of serious consideration. It is nothing to the purpose that at present under the existing arrangement of constituencies in this province such a county as Sunbury or Restigouche, with a smaller population than the rural parishes of St. John, has two members. The question of the adjustment of the representation does not lie between these counties and St. John county, but between the city of St. John and the rural districts of St. John County. The four rural parishes to which it is proposed to give two members contained 11,613 inhabitants, when the last census was taken, or twenty two per cent of the population of the county, which was then 52,966. There is no reason to believe that the proportion of inhabitants in the county as compared with the city has increased since 1881 when the census was taken, and therefore for purposes of argument it may be assumed that they stand in about the same relation to each other as they did then. This view of the case is justified by the last revision of the list of voters, which gives 2,300 voters to the rural parishes as against almost 13,000 in the whole city and county. Now we claim it is a manifest absurdity and a gross injustice to St. John to give one third of the representation to a part of the constituency which has only about one-fifth of the total population and far less than one fifth of the wealth. Why should the urban part of the city of St. John stand in a position of inferiority to the suburban portion? Why should the wealth, the energy, the enterprise, the skill, the ability, the intelligence and the knowledge of the city of St. John be neutralized by the comparative ignorance, slowness and want of enterprise of the rural districts? The truth of the matter is that it is utterly impossible to justify such an arrangement of the constituencies as is proposed and the majority of the people of this city and county are strongly against it. Neither Mr. Blair nor the government, nor the gentlemen in the city of St. John, who ran as candidates for the government at the last election, can be benefited by an arrangement which has any appearance of unfairness. If a change is needed in the constituency, the proper thing to do is to make three equal divisions without any regard whatever to the political complexion of the several wards and parishes at the recent election. It is absurd to suppose two members from St. John east, whoever they might be, would not be able to attend to the wants of the outlying parishes in that constituency as well as they have been attended to in times past, and it is equally absurd to suppose that the members for St. John west, could not look after the roads of Lancaster and Musquash as well as they are looked after at present. There is no reasonable excuse for setting up the county as a separate constituency as against the city, but if it must be set up as such, let it be reduced to its proper representation and given one member, which is all to which it is entitled. This is a matter upon which THE GAZETTE feels strongly because it is one in which serious interests are involved for the city of St. John. As the exponent of St. John interests, this paper could not allow such a bill to be passed without uttering its most vigorous protest against it. The step taken by the Common Council last evening in protesting against the bill was a very proper one; and no doubt it will have the effect of preventing it from being further proceeded with this session.

THE LOWER COVE BOULEVARD.

Yesterday a petition was placed before the Common Council asking that a street or boulevard be extended from the south end of Sydney street around the military grounds to Pitt street. This is a matter which we trust that the Council will take action upon at as early a date as possible. St. John has in all conscience given up little enough of its means to the comfort of its inhabitants and can therefore afford to carry out this much needed improvement. Although the lands in front of the military grounds was obtained by the city long before the fire, hardly anything has been done to make them useful to the citizens. Any one who goes down on a Sunday afternoon to the south end of the city will find great numbers of people congregated on the Ballast wharf and walking along the railway track and endeavoring to enjoy the pleasant breezes from the water and the delightful view seaward which can be had at this point. An ordinary regard for the comfort of our citizens should have impelled the Common Council long ago to extend the street along in front of the military grounds in order that the people going there to enjoy the good air might have a comfortable path on which to walk. We trust that there will be no failure now to do what is demanded of the Council in the interests of the inhabitants of the city generally. The expenditure of a few hundred dollars would convert the piece of land along the front of the harbor into a pleasant promenade, which could be used either by pedestrians or carriages, and there is no good reason which can be given why that work should not be carried out at once. It is quite as necessary as any public work now before the Common Council.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is time the Common Council took some steps to compel the Common Clerk to furnish them with the city bye laws and ordinances in a proper shape for publication. For almost twenty years the indolent Peters has been promising to have those bye laws ready, but they have not yet materialized. In the meantime no man, except perhaps Mr. Peters, knows what the laws are, which he is required to obey.

Ald. T. Nisbet Robertson will not be one of the Revisors this year. He will be a few dollars out of pocket by the change, but he will gain something in comfort, for the scandalous act of which he was guilty last year will not need to be repeated by him. Last year he placed his son on the list as a voter for Kings ward on income qualification, although that son, a non-resident domiciled with him at Rothesay, was not entitled to vote on income in St. John.

The total debt of the city of St. John on the 31st Dec. 1889, was $2,748,342, all in the form of debentures, with the exception of $10,114. This was an increase of $4,900 during the year. Against this was money and investments in the sinking fund to the value of $324,894, leaving our net debt $2,423,448, the greater part of which bears interest at the rate of six per cent. A reduction in the rate of interest to 4 per cent would save the city $49,420 a year in interest. The falling due of $108,740 worth of 6 per cent bonds this year will save the city $2,174 in interest. The city of St. John is in a healthy position financially, but it is not in a position to spend $1,000,000 on harbor improvements.

W. & R. STATISTICS.—The monthly returns of the Windsor and Annapolis Railway for the year ending December 31. 1889 show that the total number of passengers carried over the line during that year was 126,832, the amount of passenger fares paid being $115,501.32. Of freight and live stock the railway carried 154,316,359 pounds the charges on which were $141,276,47. For carrying of mails etc. the Railway recieved $192,550.57 making a total of $269,733.36.

FLAGS ARE FLYING from the American Steam Laundry to-day in honor of the marriage this evening of Mr. Frank A. Godsoe to Miss Carrie M. Ellis second daughter of Mr. Thomas Ellis. The marriage will take place at Centenary church at 8 o'clock, after which Mr. and Mrs. Godsoe will take the western train for New York. Mr. Wm. Jordan will act in capacity of groomsman and Miss Lulu B. Ellis will assist the bride in this all important event.

TWO GOOD COUNTIES.—Kings is, so far as real estate is concerned, the wealthiest municipality in Nova Scotia except the city of Halifax. The figures for this municipality are—Real Estate, $4, 084, 651; Personal, $842,975; Income, $28,975 being a total of $4,956,582. Yarmouth is the only municipality the total assessment of which is greater than that of Kings, the figures being: Real, $3,505,621; Personal, $2,141,217; Income, $116,112; Total, $5,562,949.

THE BLAIR INQUIRY.

THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL YESTERDAY.

A Complete and Deplicit Denial of the Charges Against Him.

FREDERICTON, April 14th

Hon. Andrew G. Blair, sworn, was examined by Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

Question—You are attorney general of the province and leader of the government? A.—Yes.

Q.—I wish you would state the history of matters connected with the dry dock and the building of the dry dock in St. John as far as they have come under your notice as a member of the government. A.—My first knowledge, as a member of the government, in connexion with any application for the dock subsidy was when an application came from a company organized in St. John. That was in the year 1888; it was the company with which Mr. Hurd Peters was connected. We had one or two delegations before the government on the subject, and the delegates were Mr. Hurd Peters and Mr. A. A. Stockton. The application was considered by the government, and the conclusion which we arrived at was that while we were, as a government, under obligations to give the $2,500 a year by virtue of the act of 1882, since we had given the other subsidies to the companies that were named in that act, yet we ought to exercise a careful discretion in the giving of the contract. We ought to be assured that the company was able to carry the work on. We also entertained an objection to the composition of the company, which was then applying for the contract and I think we specified in the order in council some of the objections which we entertained. The company as organized, the directors or board of managment consisted, I think, of Mr. Peters, his son-in-law Albert J. Gregory, Mr. R. O. Stockton, Mr. Thomson and, I think, Dr. A. A. Stockton. Well, we felt that these gentlemen were not going to put any money into the enterprise at all; and we intimated to the company that we would require them to reorganize their board so as to take in a number of business men, shipping men, men of means and in St. John, to show that there was something behind the enterprise before we would be justified in giving the contract to them. An order in council was passed bearing date the 21st of December, 1885, following the application to which I have referred. This is is the order in council:—

"IN COUNCIL, 21st Dec., 1888.

"Present: His honor the lieutenant governor. The committee of the executive council having read the petition with the accompaning documents submitted by the St. John Dock Company, a company incorporated under an act of assembly of this province praying that an order might pass by the lieutenant governor in council, for a contract to be entered into between the government and the dock company, for the payment of the subsidy of $2,500 for 20 years, under the authority of the act 45th. Victoria, cap. 34; and having heard the president of the company, Hurd Peters, Esq., and others who addressed the committee, it is observed that a large number of the board of directors of the company who appear to be the only stockholders, are not gentlemen who are at all identified with the shipping interest of the port of St. John or of the province; and some of them it is received are at present members of the legislature. The committee have no objections to make to the individuals comprising the board of directors. But there would be a larger degree of confidence on the part of the public in this particular enterprise if, at least, a considerable portion of those who are promoting it were interested directly in the shipping of the port, and the bona fides of the government in entering into a contract for the payment of the subsidy would be less open to criticism if the members of the legislature were not connected with the governing board, nor, in fact, had any personal interest in urging upon the government compliance with the company's application. It is therefore recommended that the company be advised that, while willing to aid to the extent of existing legislative authority in the construction of a dry dock in St. John, as a work having claims upon the government, and as being likely to promote the business interests of the port to a very large degree, it is not deemed advisable by the committee under the circumstances to which reference has already been made that an order should pass at present for a contract as prayed for by the petitioning company. Recommendation approved."

I believe that acting upon this suggestion there was some movement made to reorganize the company, that some two or three gentlemen went out and two or three others came in. But we had no further pressing applications, if, indeed, any at all. I don't call to mind now that any further application at all was made. But at all events no pressing application was made to us for a subsidy, and the matter seemed to drop until the excitement arose in St. John following the election about the commission. I will state very briefly what occurred in that connexion. The excitement which occurred in St. John, and which led to the action of the common council as far as the government was concerned, culminated in an application made to us on behalf of the common council and Mr. Leary. The government was met by a delegation composed of the mayor and members of the common council. (Exhibit.)

Q.—Is that the application the council made. A.—I think so. The date (December 14th) corresponds with the time the committee met us; they met a committee of the executive council. The delegation consisted of the mayor, Aldermen Peters, Kelly, and Baskin.

Q.—Was Alderman Peters up here? A.—I think so.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—They said yesterday it was Ald. Lewis? A.—Well, I think it was Ald. Peters. I have a very distinct recollection of him addressing us in the council room. But if he says he was not here of course I am in error—and Ald. Connor and Mr. Leary. I had no private conversation with them at all or with any individual member of the committee; or with Mr. Leary. The gentlemen advanced all the reasons which occurred to them in favor of their application, and they urged very strenuously that the government should then and there agree to enter into the contract. I felt myself, and so stated that I thought, they were unduly pressing us, and I said we must have time to consider the matter. I said it is all very well that the common council of St. John have agreed to give a contract, but we cannot be entirely governed by that.

Q.—Do you remember as to to whether when they first presented it, the application was in writing? A.—No. Mr. Leary's application was not in writing. I then and there said to Mr. Leary: We have not any formal application from you, nor memorial. We don't know what you propose doing and I think you ought to state in writing what you are proposing to do for which you ask us to enter into the contract.

Q.—Have you there a copy both of the memorial and the application of the city council? A.—Yes, here it is.

Q.—The memorial was put in writing in accordance with your suggestion? A.—Yes in accordance with the suggestion I made at the time. I was about to say that one or two of the aldermen insisted that they should get an answer that night to the effect that we would give them the $2,500 a year. I felt that the demand was very unreasonable, and I said so. I said I thought they ought to recognize that the government must act upon its own discretion and judgment in the matter, and could not be guided entirely by the action of the city council; that while the cabinet would be largely influenced by the action of the council, still they must consider the matter upon its merits as a government, and we would do so at the earliest possible moment. I assured them, and the other members of the executive, I think, assured them, that we would give the matter early consideration. We knew that they were pressing and that the common council was very anxious that something should be done at once, and we would not waste any time about it, and neither we did.

Q.—What time was the delegation before the council? A.—It was in December. If I were to give my impressions it would be that it was the 14th, because this document which Mr. Leary drew up while here bears that date. He left it with the secretary or some member of the government before he went away. We proceeded to the consideration of the matter at the earliest moment practicable and on the 30 of December we passed an order, or rather, I should say, a minute of council had been previously passed, and on that date it was approved. The council is ordinarily two or three days in session, and the minutes which have passed the council are all approved at the close of the session by the government, and therefore it would be correct for me to say that we probably passed the order before the 30th as far as the action of the committee of the council was concerned.

Q.—Was this order finally approved by the government on the 30th December? A.—It was, but I had forgotten of another application from the mayor and common council of St. John and Mr. Leary, we had a delegation wait upon us from another company or organization. The delegates were Mr. Jas. C. Robertson, Mr. Skinner and a gentleman by the name of Van Slooten. These gentlemen pressed us very strongly to entertain their application favorably. They said they had either organized or were about organizing a company for the purpose of constructing a dock; that they would be able of their ability to construct it and they mentioned that Simpsons, of New York, dock builders, were the persons with whom they were in connexion or, at all events, upon whose plans they were proposing to work. This was before the common council delegation waited upon us. We said to them we would consider the application and the matter was deferred and that application came up at the same time the Leary or common council application came up, and this is the order in council I was going to read:

"IN COUNCIL, 30th December, 1890:—

"Present: His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. The committee of the executive council, having had under consideration the several applications of Jean Felix and others, and of James D Leary, asking for provincial aid toward the construction of a dry dock and the building of wharves and warehouses and furnishing terminal facilities at the port of Saint John, and likewise the memorial of the city council stating that the council had made an appropriation of $10,000 a year for 20 years in aid of such dock and other harbor improvements, and urging that the province should grant a similar amount. The committee recognized the great importance of the proposed works both to the city of St. John and the whole province. Under existing legislation, however, the government is authorized to grant aid toward the construction of a dry dock only to the extent of $2,500 per annum for twenty years, which amount the committee are of opinion it would be in the public interest to grant, provide the subsidy is based on a per centage of the cost of the works. The committee therefore recommend that the provincial secretary be anthorized to enter into a contract for the granting of provincial aid toward the construction of a dry dock at Carleton, in the city of St. John, to any person or company willing to construct such dry dock, (and provided sufficient evidence of his or their financial ability to complete the same be furnished), to the amount of one half per cent. per annum of the cost of such dock, for a period of 20 years. (The amount of such subsidy not, however, to exceed the sum of $2,500 per annum for such period of 20 years) and provided that the plan and specifications of the proposed works be first approved by the govenor in council. And it is accordingly so ordered."

We concluded to change the grant in that way, making it one half per centum per annum upon the total cost, because we did not see our way clear to having any guarantee that the cost of the work would be $500,000 as Mr. Leary and these other gentlemen represented. They had represented that they would expend that amount, and in order to make sure of that expenditure, of the expenditure being bona fide made to that extent upon these works, we concluded to draw the proposal in such a way as to make out a subsidy of one half per centum upon the whole cost. If the cost did not amount to that their subsidy would amount to a lesser sum and we passed that minute on the 30th of December. Now that closed my connexion with the dock business, except this. A few days after the council adjourned, (I had reason to believe from a letter which I have seen since that it was the 3rd of January, my own recollection was that it was written two or three days after the closing of the session of the council), I had a telephone message from Mr. McLellan, then provincial secretary, stating that the common council were urging very strongly and strenuously, and there was a strong public opinion in St. John insisting upon the government entering at once upon a contract with Mr. Leary for the dock. I think he mentioned to me that the mayor was right then in his house at the time he telephoned to me, and he wanted to know if I would give my consent, as the order in council had passed, to a contract being signed with Leary. I talked it over with him and gave my consent to his executing the contract.

Q.—That was done by telephone? A.—By telephone, and I am quite well assured that it was the 3rd of January. I said "I am going to be busy in the election, you can get the solicitor general to draw it up, as he knows the view of his colleagues in the council." Of course even after the orders in council do pass authorizing these things, it is customary for the leader of the government to be spoken to before the papers are actually executed and Mr. McLellan, in accordance with that usuage, asked me if I would give my consent to his signing the contract which I gave him then and there. I heard not another syllable about the dock contract or dock business as far as I can recollect or recall in any way, until a letter came to me from the solicitor general enclosing a draft of a contract between Leary and the government. The solicitor general asked me, if my memory serves me right, (I have lost the letter and cannot find it which accompanied the draft) to look over it and let him know whether its terms were satisfactory and return to him. I received the letter in the hurry of the election, my mind engrossed with everything else but dock contracts, and I did not even open the draft or read it. That, with other correspondence that was accumulating, was laid aside. I went into the country and never thought of it again until I was reminded of it by the solicitor general at Harvey, on the evening on which I was to speak there. How many days that contract remained, the papers remained unattended to I could not say, it would be wholly impossible for me to say. It passed entirely out of my mind until I was reminded of it, and I will state to the committee the circumstances under which I was reminded of it. I had been requested in the early part of the campaign by the provincial secretary to address a meeting in the Institute in St. John in connexion with the election. I had consented to do so and a date was named for a meeting, that would be early, I think in the first week or 10 days of January. I remember the evening that was fixed for it was a Wednesday evening. I think in the first week in January or it may have been in the second. But at all events it was Wednesday. I made my own appointments for meetings so that I could be in St. John on that evening, and on the Monday preceding the Wednesday I received a message, (I was then up in Keswick) to the effect that they had changed their arrrangements, that they would not have the meeting on Wednesday night in St. John. This was from the secretary. He had telegraphed to my office and then had telegraphed it to me either in my son's name or that of Mr. Barry, or else the secretary's telegram had simply been repeated. It stated that they had cancelled the arrangement, and would fix a later evening. Of course this threw me out somewhat. I lost the evening, practically, but I heard nothing further about it until Sunday, which would be the 12th of January. The Sunday preceding the election was the 19th and this Sunday would be the 12th. On Sunday the 12th, the secretary telephoned me from St. John to know whether I could come down to St John on Friday evening and speak there on that evening. I replied to him that I could not say, that I doubted if I could. I thought probably my notices had gone out for meetings all through the week and if they had I could not cancel an engagement without perhaps serious loss in the locality. However, I said to him by telephone I will inquire in the morning. I will go to the office the first thing in the morning and find out whether my notices have been posted and if the notices for Friday evening have not gone out, and I can go, I will telephone you. I did not engage to telephone him if they had gone, but only if they had not, because I thought he could make his own arrangement, he would assume that I could not go, not getting word that I could. I found next morning that my notices had gone out and I was engaged to speak at McAdam Junction on Friday night, so that I could go and I supposed the matter was off and they would not expect me. The next thing I knew or heard the solicitor general came up on the train and met me at Harvey station. I had a meeting at Manners Sutton that night, and Wednesday evening he came up on the train a few minutes before I was going off to attend my meeting. He told me his object in coming up. He said his object in coming up was to prevail on me if possible, to go down and speak in the Institute on Friday night. He said they had announced the fact that I intended to speak, that they had published a notice of it, and not being able to get any word from me his friends there had urged that he should come up and see me on the subject, and try to prevail upon me to go down. He said it would be a great disappointment to the friends in St John if I did not go down and they would probably charge me (the notices having gone out and the meeting being announced) that I was afraid to go down. Well, I said I would be very sorry that they should think that, but I did not see how I possibly could do it. I did not think it would be fair to my friends or the gentlemen running with me if I should go down, and further than that I would have to disappoint the people at McAdam junction. Well, the solicitor general said our friends are so very pressing upon the subject that they authorized me to say that if it would be any inducement at all to you they would assist you in a contribution towards election expenses. They said they would make up at least $1,000 for us (this is the whole story), and, perhaps, would be able to do a little better, but they would do that if I would go. Well, I said I appreciated their kindness very much, but I cannot promise you to-night that I can do so. I will have to think it over, and I will have to try and see some of my leading friends at McAdam Junction, as I am going off in the morning early and will let you know. That was the best promise I could make to him. I said I would try if it could be accomplished. I think that was all that took place on the subject in connection with the contribution. The solicitor general asked me if I had got the draft of the dock contract from him. I said I did not remember very distinctly; had he sent it to me? He said he had and I said if you sent it to me I am satisfied I must have got it,

Continued on Fourth Page.

A COUGH

is a symptom of many diseases, including Inflamation of the Lungs and Phthisis. Often a cough is neglected, the patient believing it to be only a trifling affair, but when it once takes hold of the Lungs how difficult to cure.

OFTEN

you hear the patient say, "Oh, it's only a cough, I'll soon be over it," and so he lets it run until he can't be cured, and thus he brings his career to an early close,—all caused by simple neglect or refusal to take proper remedies and thus many a life

ENDS

that might have been prolonged but for carelessness. Don't neglect a cough; time and money can be saved by attending to it at once. Physicians now agree that Cod Liver Oil is the best remedy to use in all pulmonary diseases, and

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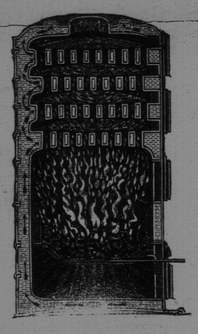

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