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POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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JOHN A. BOWES, Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1890.

For the Latest Telegraphic News look on the First Page.

THE INTERESTS OF THE FARMER.

The present Dominion government for the first time have shown in the arrangement of their tariff a regard for the interests of the farmer, which has not been developed by any former administration. Complaints have been made in regard to the national policy in times past that while it encouraged the manufacturer and extended protection to him, it gave very little assistance to the men who were toiling upon the fertile fields of Canada. This reproach, however, is now taken away by the new tariff, and hereafter all the varied interests of Canada will stand upon an equal footing, so far as the protective policy of the government is concerned. This, we think, is wise, for if protection is to be tried and if it is to be a success, the trial should be made to the fullest extent, and not partially. The farmers of Canada, no doubt, are able to hold their own against the farmers of the United States in any fair competition, but when the tariff is raised on one side of the line to an inordinate height, it is absurd to suppose that the barrier should be taken down on our side and American products be admitted either free of duty or at a duty so small as to be merely nominal. We believe that our agriculturists are quite ready to compete with their neighbors to the south of us, and that they would be quite willing to enter into a reciprocal arrangement for the free interchange of products from one side of the line to the other. But that arrangement has not been in existence since the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty in 1866, and from that time until the present, all the advances we have made looking to a reciprocity treaty and a free interchange of natural products have been repulsed by the people of the United States.

Under these circumstances it was certainly right and proper that the government should extend protection to the farmer and an opportunity of enjoying all the benefits of the Canadian market, which is his by right, and which is the only one available to him on this continent, now that the markets of the United States have been closed against him by the high tariff the Americans have established.

We are firmly of the opinion that by protecting the farmers of Canada, not only will they be benefitted, but the ordinary consumer will not be injured; for when it becomes understood that our farmers are not to be crowded out and undersold by the products of the United States, they will enter into the work with more zeal and with an assurance of safety and surety of a fair chance to dispose of their products that they have not felt for some time. They will be able to sell their products at a fair price to the consumer, and at the same time will enjoy a reasonable profit to themselves.

There is no question whatever that for the present and for a long time to come, the agricultural interest must be the leading interest of Canada. This Dominion possesses an illimitable scope of valuable land suitable for pasture or for agriculture, and can produce crops of every kind which this northern latitude yields, as well as stock in great abundance for sale abroad. By having the Canadian market to themselves our farmers, besides supplying their own market here, will be able to send their surplus into the markets of the United Kingdom in competition with the products of the United States there. The time is not far distant, we believe, when Canada and the other colonies of the British empire will be able to produce all the wheat that is required in the British Islands, and when that time arrives new arrangements may be concluded between the mother country and the colonies with regard to the interchange of their commodities on different terms from those which now prevail. Although the idea of a customs union extending over the whole empire may be regarded now as simply a dream, there is no man who can say that dream will not be realized, some time, within the lives of men now living.

NOVA SCOTIA ASYLUM REPORT.

This annual Blue-book has just been issued, and in view of the discussion lately had in the legislature in reference to the expense of management in our asylum, a brief review will be interesting.

We observe in the first place that the average number of patients in the Nova Scotia institution for 1889, is 396, in that of New Brunswick, 447; there being therefore, 51 patients more to provide for in New Brunswick than in Nova Scotia for the same period. In comparing the cost of the management, we find that with this additional number of patients New Brunswick disbursed for its insane $52,586.15, and Nova Scotia $72,411.54.

The amount charged under repairs in Nova Scotia is "ordinary" $8,101.10, under "extraordinary" $3,787.66—total $11,888.76. Total for repairs in New Brunswick $1,549.76.

Comparing the annual expenditure upon the insane in the two provinces for 1889, we learn that New Brunswick maintained 447 patients, and erected a wing for the asylum annex to accommodate 50 patients, for less money than it cost to maintain (including repairs in both cases) 396 patients in the Nova Scotia asylum.

Opposite the item food in the Nova Scotia report we find the sum $20,508.30, against $17,917.59 in that of New Brunswick. Mark the larger number of patients in New Brunswick and the larger cost in Nova Scotia.

In the discussion alluded to the food item was much criticised. Should not complaint rather have been made that this expenditure was too small? The cost of food in these two provinces cannot differ but very slightly, if at all.

Under the head of salaries and wages the figures stand: Nova Scotia $19,172.25. New Brunswick $10,306.64. Here is a vast difference to be sure. Whether this ought to exist or not is a question. It is to be hoped that Dr. Atkinson will not press for greater economy in this direction. It is a fair assumption either that the staff of officers and employes is too small or else it is not properly remunerated.

We disclaim any desire to disparage the management of the institution of the sister province; on the contrary, we are of the opinion that probably we practice economy too rigidly, and that our figures of expense should approach more nearly to theirs.

And we are quite safe in saying in conclusion, that for the amount of money expended, the Lunatic asylum of this Province not only compares favorably with other institutions of its kind, but is probably the best managed, especially so far as economy is concerned, that can be found anywhere.

DEBATE ON MR. BAIRD'S MOTION.

Speech of the Solicitor General—A Convincing and Complete Vindication of the Government.

When THE GAZETTE went to press on Saturday evening Mr. Baird was closing his speech on his motion on the adoption of the Blair inquiry report. Mr. Hanington followed at considerable length, as also did Dr. Alward and Mr. Palmer, but the great length of the speeches precludes our giving them in full. Hon. Mr. Pugsley rose in his place and his speech of two and a half hours was listened to with eager interest by all present. The address was pronounced a masterly vindication of the position of the government, and at its close he was the recipient of the warm applause and congratulations of both sides of the house. The speech follows:—

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said a charge had been preferred against the attorney general for which there had been no reasonable foundation or cause. That charge had fallen to the ground, and although that was the case the house was now asked to consider the amendment of the hon. member for St. John (Alward.) Although that charge had been proved beyond a doubt to be a reckless charge, although it has been proved conclusively, out of the mouth of the witness for the prosecution, that the charge against the attorney general is absolutely false, and that he is absolutely innocent of the foul and infamous charge brought against him, yet the member for St. John (Alward) thought fit to move this amendment that the solicitor general had done something for which he should be called upon to answer. Although he (Pugsley) had not been placed on trial, although no charge had been preferred against him, and no opportunity given him to answer, yet this house was called upon to condemn and in some way discredit him before the people of this country. It did not seem to him that the course taken by the hon. gentleman would commend itself to any fair-minded man either in the house or country. It did occur to him that when a member of this house, having in his place preferred a charge of so grave a character against the attorney general, and after he had had an opportuniiy of calling witnesses and when, by the testimony of the witnesses whom he (Atkinson) had called, not only had he failed to prove the charge, but after he had completely established the innocence of the attorney general it did not seem to him that if the member for Carleton were honest; if he were actuated by any principle of fairness; if he had in his breast any honest instinct of fair play and decency he should have risen in his place and expressed regret for the charge he had made, and that he should at the same time express his utter contempt for the man who had incited him to prefer the charge. It was no wonder that when the member for Carleton was before the committee, and when he was being examined at his (Pugsley's) instance after he (Atkinson) had completely failed to establish his charge; it was no wonder that when he had been asked by the speaker who had incited him to take this course against the attorney general he (Atkinson) was ashamed to tell the committee who had given him the information and who had incited to his action.

Mr. Hanington said the committee ruled the questions out.

Hon. Mr Pugsley—The learned gentleman, the counsel for the hon. member for Carleton and who at the same time was the hon. member for Westmorland, had taken occasion to inform the member for Carleton that he was not bound to answer the question and had advised him not to answer it. Every legal member of the house knew that if a man were to charge the attorney general as the hon. member for Carleton had charged him, he would be liable to an action for slander, and any jury would mulct him in heavy damages. Unless he would give good reason for making the charge he would be liable indeed to a criminal prosecution. he would be liable to arrest and be placed in the criminal dock and tried for libel because the laws of the country held the character of every British subject sacred and the law would not permit any man with impunity to slander the character of another. The hon. member for Carleton had been given an opportunity to give to the committee the information and the facts upon which he had thought proper to prefer the heinous charge he had made against the hon. leader of the government. He (Atkinson) has not availed himself of that opportunity; he had by his conduct, by his silence and by his declining to answer convicted himself before the country of having prepetrated a wilful and malicious slander. It had been stated by the hon. gentleman who had last addressed the house that the result of the inquiry must be most gratifying to the house and to the attorney general. It was exceedingly gratifying to him (Pugsley) he cared not though the result of the inquiry might in some degree reflect upon himself, and even though he had not had an opportunity of answering the charge which had been preferred against him now for the first time, and though his character might be damaged by the false mode in which they sought to attack him, yet it was to him a matter of the greatest satisfaction that his leader, who had for the past seven years enjoyed to the most marked degree the confidence and the respect of his fellow citizens, would not be injured nor his reputation sullied by the malicious slanders, which had been given expression to. It was, indeed, a matter of satisfaction to the house and the country at large that the hon. leader of the government would occupy in the future as he had in the past, the same high position in the minds and hearts of the people of this country. It had been alleged by the opposition speakers that the investigation had not been as full and as complete as it should have been; it had been stated that evidence had been excluded which should have been admitted by the committee and which, if admitted, might have proved something more than that which had been proved. It might be well to enquire into the character of the evidence sought to have been brought forward. Was that evidence, evidence of fact? He thought not. It had not been proposed to give evidence of a single fact further than had been given. Every fact offered in evidence had been allowed and he defied any hon. gentleman to show a single instance where that evidence would have had any bearing directly or indirectly which had been excluded by the committee.

Mr. Hanington—Did not the committee refuse to bring witnesses to prove that $4,000 had been offered to procure the contract by Leary or his agents?

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—It was stated to the committee that if they had the evidence of Mr. Barker or J. C. Robertson they could have proved that I or my brother, or some one else on Leary's behalf had offered to somebody, whether to this government or any member of the government or whether to Barker or Robertson they did not say, had offered that sum if they would get the contract for Leary. Continuing he said that such evidence would not go to prove a fact but was simply offered in the endeavor to get in hearsay testimony, and that without any manner connecting the attorney general with it and without showing it was a proposal made on behalf of the government, or any member of the government, without pretending to show that those witnesses could have proved one solitary fact. It would, perhaps, not be out of place to here state that the question had been put to him and he had denied it. It had not been suggested that it could be proven that any member of the government had done so or that anybody professing to act on behalf of the government had done so, and he was here to state that he unqualifiedly hurled back the insinuation. He had done so before the committee in the presence of the learned counsel for the prosecution who now seemed to be acting in a double capacity.

Mr. Hanington—And pray what did you do?

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said he was here for the purpose of asserting, and he would assert without fear of contradiction, that the chairman of the committee had informed the counsel for the prosecution that if they could show that Mr. Blair, or any member of the government, was directly or indirectly connected with any statement which they said they could make it would have been admitted.

Mr. Hanington—Told me so?

Mr. Wilson—Yes, I did tell you so over and over again.

Mr. Hanington—You decided it behind my back and never informed me of any such thing, and the only thing I know about it is that when I came in the clerk, Mr. Richards, told me so.

Mr. Pugsley—That statement, sir, of the hon. gentleman, is

LIKE A GREAT MANY MORE STATEMENTS

he has made; it is like the statement he made last night when I happened to make some observations to him, and when he retorted across the house with the very courteous remark, "You are a sneak."

Mr. Hanington—I did not say that. That is a mis-report. I said in reply to you when you said I could not get out of that line, and after I had withdrawn the word tool, there is one thing I am not, I am not a sneak. Those are the words I used.

Mr. Pugsley—The hon. member's memory has been defective. On former occasions he has been known to make statements on the one day and when brought up before him say he had never made a statement of the kind. Will the hon. gentleman admit this statement as reported because he certainly did?

Mr. Hanington—When the hon. gentleman so recklessly states that which he knows to be untrue I shall not reply to him.

Mr. Pugsley—Will the hon. member say that on Monday he did not insinuate that I was not a gentleman.

Mr. Hanington—I will say so on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Pugsley—On the 17th the hon. gentleman is reported to have said that he was advised to state that I had got $3,000 from parties interested in the Leary dock scheme. I ask whether he made that statement or not? Does the hon. gentleman decline to answer?

Mr. Hanington—I talk to gentlemen.

Mr. Pugsley—I ask the gentleman if he will not tell me to tell this house the name of his informer. The hon. gentleman has charged me, the solicitor general of this province, sworn to guard sacredly the rights and interests of the people of the province, with having received $3,000 from a public contractor; he has charged that I, who had the duty of drawing this contract, and of seeing that the interests of the province were carefully guarded and protected; he has deliberately charged me in the presence of the committee and of the people who were present at the investigation of this matter, that I had received $3,000 from a public contractor, and I ask the hon. gentleman to tell me (and if he will not tell me then to tell this house) who informed him that was so. I have the right to ask and I appeal to this house and I appeal to you sir if, when a charge of that grave character is made against me, I am not entitled to the name of his informant. The hon. gentleman refuses to answer. I would not, sir, be justified in making use of any language which is not parliamentary, but I would say that the man who would circulate against a fellow member of this house a charge of that serious character can be characterized by no other title than that of a malicious and contemptible slanderer, and, Mr. Speaker, if there was any language that was parliamentary that would more strongly express the contempt I have for such a man I wish to be understood as using it. Mr. Pugsley then proceeded to say that it was perhaps due to the house and to the constituency which had on four different occasions returned them as their representative (twice by large majorities and twice by acclamation) that he should say there was not a word of truth in the statement that had been made; neither directly or indirectly had he received from Mr. Leary nor any person on his behalf one single cent. He had never had directly or indirectly in any shape or form, in any contract which Leary was to get in connection with the dry dock any interest whatever. He trusted that the gentlemen of the house would pardon him for dealing with the matter, but he could not, in justice to himself, allow it to pass and therefore took the present occasion to give it an unequivocal denial, though perhaps it was hardly needed since the house had in the past, from time to time, an experience of such reckless statements. He would now proceed to deal with a matter more immediately before the house, and it would be his duty to trace the history of the St. John dock and harbor improvements and his connexion with them. Some time last year an application had been made to the government on behalf of a company known as the Van Slooten Company. That application had been preceded by one from a company, the promotor of which was A. A. Stockton, one of the hon. members for the city and county of St. John. Subsequently, on the 14th of December, an application was made on behalf of the city council of St. John to the government and a memorial was presented urging that the subsidy should be given to Mr. Leary. It would be borne in mind by hon. members, from the papers which had been laid on the table of the house, that that application was not one simply made by Mr. Leary, but was also made on behalf of the city of St. John through its mayor and common council; it was a memorial presented to the government under the common seal of the city of St. John, asking that a contract should be given not to either one of the companies referred to, but to J. D. Leary. (The solicitor general here read the memorial of the city council.) Did that memorial say that the feeling was confined to a few of the residents of St. John? He thought not; he would rather infer from that, that the feeling in favor of the proposed works was a widespread one, yet, after the expression of opinion as set forth in that memorial, certain people had seen fit to charge the government with deliberately selling that contract to Leary, and he regretted to know that one of the hon. members for the city and county of St. John, who had, in another place, strenuously advocated the dock scheme, should have seen fit to join in the cry that was raised against the government. They had, forsooth, charged the government with this great crime, and simply because they had, after mature consideration, yielded to the strong expression of public sentiment as expressed by the mayor and common council of the city of St. John and if, after yielding to their entreaties, we are to be met by such charges he thought it would afford very little encouragement to any government to make efforts to aid St. John in making improvements at that port. That memorial contained a request that a larger subsidy than that provided by the act of 1882 should be given. It would be well to bear in mind that it had been presented on the 14th of December, but at the same time it should be borne in mind that although it was a short while before the writs were issued for the election, the government had no control over the memorialists. The government could not say to them they should not present their memorial at that time, for fear it would be afterwards contended if they supported it that they had done so from political motives and that it was to influence public sentiment in St. John.

Passing from that he would ask the house to bear in mind that some 16 or 17 days thereafter, namely, the 30th of December, an order in council passed authorizing the provincial secretary to enter into a contract with Leary at any time, subject, of course, to certain conditions. On the following day the provincial secretary wrote the mayor of St. John informing him that the memorial had been complied with.

Mr. Pugsley here read the letter. He would ask the house if that was not a public declaration that the government would be willing, if it met with the approval of their friends in the legislature, to favorably consider the granting of such further aid as might be desirable in the public interests? That was not a statement made to Leary, but was publicly made to the mayor. By that letter the government had put itself into communication not with Leary or any agent for Leary, but with the city of St. John, in the most public manner. In that letter the government, through its provincial secretary, had declared to the public authorities of the city of St. John in the most public and solemn manner that they were prepared to enter into a contract with such persons as they approved. That was followed up by the letter of the provincial secretary under date of the 3rd of January to the Mayor of St. John, in which it had been made even more clear than it had been before that the provincial secretary was prepared to sign a contract with Leary. (Mr. Pugsley here read this letter.) That letter was the result of the mayor of St. John, the man authorized to speak for the whole people of St. John, calling upon Mr. McLellan and requesting from him some further proof of the willingness of the government to sign the Leary contract. The mayor then knew the plans and specifications had not been approved of, that the dominion government had not given the required subsidy and everybody knew that the contract then to be entered into must necessarily be a provisional one and therefore, not a binding contract. He would ask the house, and through the house the country, if, after that letter which had been sent broadcast over the face of the province the government could have receded from the position they then took? After that all that remained to be done was to arrange the details of the contract. The evidence of the hon. attorney general, corroborated by that of Mr. McLellan, was that he (Pugsley) was to prepare the same and that it was to be signed in accordance with the letter given. From and after the date of that letter, to all intents and purposes, the government had awarded that subsidy to Leary subject to the approval of the plans and specifications. The evidence taken before the commission would show that Murray, who was acting for Leary, knew that he was to prepare the contract and submit it to him.

Mr. Pugsley then quoted in full the evidence of Mr. Murray at the inquiry, showing the latter's ideas of the contract and the terms, and thought it disproved the insinuations and charges against him. He asked if that evidence showed he was anxious to have the contract signed; did it not show that the anxiety was on the part of Mr. Leary? Mr. Murray said further he refused to sign the contract without the saving clause in it, and it was inserted and he was told of it the 10th or 12th of January.

Continuing Mr. Pugsley said a great deal of the charge against the attorney general was that the contract as signed contained a provision that in case Leary did not get additional aid that he had been hoping for, the contract would not be binding, because it was felt, as Murray says, that he would not bind himself absolutely to go on without such additional subsidy, and it would be impossible and unreasonable to expect that he should. After referring to the amount that would be spent in the construction of the dock and its capabilities when constructed, in addition to the other harbor improvements, he proceeded to say that he felt it was but justice to put that clause in the provisional contract so that it would enable Mr. Leary to proceed to Ottawa and there urge his claims as to additional aid. It has been charged that the contract was one drawn in favor of Leary. In reply to that he would say that it was not drawn in favor of Leary, but was drawn in every particular against him and in favor of the province. He invited hon. gentlemen to take that contract up and to show him, if they could, one single clause in the interests of the province had not been looked after. No subsidy became due under that contract to Mr. Leary until the work was completed according to the plans and specifications which were to be approved by the governor in council prior to the commencement of work. Such subsidies in all were equal to a cash payment of $30,000 on an expenditure by Leary of $500,000. He did not think it was such a bargain for Leary as would induce him to give away several thousands to aid in the election. He had already called attention to the date on which Mr. Murray said the clause had been put into the contract and had given it as the 10th or 12th of January, and he desired to call particular attention to this date, because it was important, to show that the statements made by hon. members on the other side of the house as to Mr. Murray's evidence in this particular were, to say the least, very inaccurate.

Turning to the evidence of the hon. attorney general and that given by himself it would be seen that the attorney general had stated that the draft contract had arrived in Fredericton previous to Sunday. This was in corroboration of the statement he had made that he had prepared it shortly after the 3d of January and on it being acquiesced in by Mr. Murray, he had immediately sent it to the attorney general.

Mr. Pugsley then quoted the evidence of the attorney general and himself on this point, and said that although some hon. gentlemen might say I am not to be believed, yet I ask this house (and I venture to say that I can appeal to many hon. gentlemen in this house, who have known me—and who know me—during the three years I was the presiding officer of this house), and I can ask them whether or not they are able to accept the statements that I have made. I have sworn, Mr. Speaker, that after I drafted this contract, and after it was completed as it stands to-day, I forwarded it to the attorney general and asked him to look it over and return it to me. Do you not think if a bargain had been entered into, by which, in consideration of this contract being signed, Leary was to contribute thousands of dollars for the purpose of carrying on the elections, that I would not have impressed upon the attorney general the desirability of returning this immediately? And do you think if such a bargain had been made, he would have left it among his papers and gone off to the country? I ask hon. members to look at our conduct and say if we did not act in a proper and reasonable manner. I was asked why I did not wire him about the contract but what was the answer? Had there been any bargain it might have been neces-

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

In Consumption

it is prescribed extensively; but they often find that the patient cannot take it, as the stomach refuses to retain it. Reley's Cod Liver Oil Cream can be retained by the most delicate stomach,—it is as pleasant as milk. Try it. All druggists sell it.

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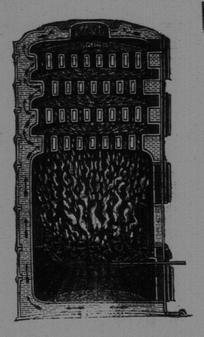

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