

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1914.

THE QUEBEC SCANDAL.

Under ordinary circumstances the resignation of three members of the Quebec legislature, even when two of them are also members of the Legislative Council and the third the chairman of an important committee would cause but little interest in this province. In the case of Hon. Messrs. Bergevin and Berard and Mr. J. O. Mousseau, who resigned yesterday as the result of charges of bribery and corruption brought by the Montreal Daily Mail the case is different as the prominence of the men, their close connection with the Liberal organization in the Federal parliament, their confidential relations with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Rodolphe Lemieux and the sensational nature of the charges against them have combined to give to the case an importance it would not otherwise warrant.

The Montreal Daily Mail, an independent newspaper published in Montreal, charged that members of the Quebec Legislature had accepted bribes to support legislation designed to give valuable concessions to a group of promoters. Naturally there was a sensation and when the Mail published very detailed accounts of its evidence in support of the charges the matter reached such a stage that Messrs. MacNab and Nichols, proprietors of the Mail, were summoned to the bar of the Quebec House to prove their charges or retract them.

In waiving the web of evidence around the men against whom its charges were preferred the Mail adopted metropolitan methods. Representatives of the Burns Detective Agency came to Montreal, were installed in luxurious offices in one of the large office buildings there and were also supplied with rooms at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec. In all cases the rooms were equipped with detectors, phones, a mysterious little instrument by the use of which eavesdroppers in adjoining rooms are able to hear every word of conversation taking place in rooms where the transmitters have been placed.

With the trap laid the sleuths from across the line gave it out that they were interested in the passage of a bill giving certain powers to a fictitious organization known as the Montreal Exposition Company. This company purported to conduct a mammoth exhibition in the City of Montreal and the promoters intimated that they were prepared to pay well and lavishly for assistance of legislators and others in getting their concession granting bill through both houses of the Quebec Legislature.

Through agencies which exist in the vicinity of every parliament building the detectives were introduced first to Mr. Mousseau, who as chairman of the Private Bills Committee of the Quebec House was a friend well worth having for their little game. He was lured to the room in the Chateau, the telephone "set," witnesses, including a stenographer, posted in an adjoining room and the process of securing Mr. Mousseau's kind favor with the powers that be commenced. The Mail charges that in this it was necessary to pass a certain \$500 bill as a "convincer" before the fish was landed. The Mail also says Mr. Mousseau was "convinced." The process of securing the favor of Messrs. Berard and Bergevin is said to have been conducted in much the same way.

The publication in the Mail of the evidence in the case resulted in the summoning of Messrs. MacNab and Nichols to the bar of the House to prove their charges. Accounts of this have already appeared in The Standard and it is worthy of mention that the Grit Telegraph, the organ of Puglesleyan "purity" saw fit to treat the matter so lightly that in glaring headlines it told the people "Montreal Editors Not so Brave at Bar." The astute editor of the Telegraph did not make editorial reference to it. Possibly this was discreet, for in cases affecting Grit politicians it is not always easy to forecast which way the cat will jump. Doubtless, now that the members charged have sent in their resignations the Telegraph, standing for "no graft, no deals," will be delighted to tell the public just how injudicious were the Quebec legislators. Such declarations from the Telegraph have such an uplifting effect.

Meanwhile, though the Telegraph has treated the matter lightly, we learn that even Sir Wilfrid, that "ebullient pansy" Rodolphe Lemieux, and other Grits at the Capital are considerably perturbed. An extract from the Ottawa correspondent of the Winnipeg Telegram shows that the situation at Quebec is being very carefully watched from the Grit headquarters on Parliament Hill. It also tells the reason why. The extract which bears the date of January 25th, follows:

The alleged corruption in Quebec

has been brought very close to the leading Liberals in the Federal House from that province. J. O. Mousseau, chairman of the private bills committee in the Quebec legislature, and the man, whose name is most prominently connected with the corruption of the legislature, represents Rouleau. This is one of the constituencies represented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Mousseau is his chief lieutenant there. Indeed, it was Mousseau who stood sponsor for Sir Wilfrid to the people of Rouleau, and in his campaign in that constituency had full charge of the local Liberal organization and war chest.

Hon. L. P. Berard, M. L. C., whose connection with the alleged corruption is equally as public as that of Mousseau, is the law partner of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Sir Wilfrid's chief lieutenant in Quebec.

Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Lemieux have had daily conferences since the exposure and these conferences show their anxiety over the story of the alleged tactics employed by their close associates in Quebec. Among the French-Canadian Liberal members in Ottawa the utmost anxiety prevails. They have been to Sir Wilfrid and Lemieux, filled with fear, asking that something be done to save the situation.

The English-speaking Liberals have so many troubles of their own of a similar nature that they rather welcome the situation in which their French colleagues are placed. Misseu's company, and the English Liberals, who have been awaking the Transcontinental inquiry report and that of Ferguson on the natural resources of the west with fear and trembling, cannot be expected to sympathize with their colleagues of Quebec in a similar dilemma. They rather welcome it as it will withdraw public attention to a certain degree, from them.

It is impossible to portray the consternation in the ranks of the Liberals from Quebec. They have for years pointed to the Gouin government as an example of a Liberal administration free from corruption. Suddenly came the exposure, with a directness of charges that must carry great weight with the electorate. With a detail is narrated the purchase of members to pass doubtful legislation, and these members so close to the federal and provincial Liberal leaders that they are besmirched. An examination of the bogus bill for the support of which Liberals were alleged to have been purchased reveals it to be a piece of monstrous legislation. If this charge is established then legislation of any kind was purchasable in Quebec, and the men charged with this corruption are the close associates, politically and in business, of the Ottawa Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux.

If that indisputable proof is forthcoming, the Gouin administration is doomed. Quebec has shown that exposure is always followed by banishment from office of the guilty. Twenty years ago Mercier, the greatest of the French-Canadians ever had, went down to humiliating defeat after just such an exposure. Sir Wilfrid's position in Quebec is steadily declining, but he has hoped to carry the province with the aid of the strong Gouin administration. Now this last support is being taken away, his colleagues exposed and his party and friends besmirched. Is it little wonder that the opposition in Ottawa has ceased to be a factor, and that it so earnestly desires proration?

YESTERDAY'S CONVENTIONS.

Supporters of the Provincial Government in Charlotte and York counties met in convention yesterday and selected their candidates for the coming by-elections. In Charlotte county, Hon. George E. Clarke, who will go back to the people for re-election in his new position of attorney-general was re-elected, and R. Watson Grimmer chosen to succeed to the seat vacated by the appointment of Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer to the Supreme Court Bench. In York county Percy A. Guthrie, a rising young barrister of Fredericton, was chosen to contest the seat vacated by the translation to the Federal arena of Hon. H. F. McLeod.

Both conventions were largely attended and enthusiastic. Votes of confidence in the Provincial Government were expressed with a unanimity and unanimity decidedly illustrative of the esteem in which the Flemish administration is held. It is very doubtful if there will be opposition in either county, but if the Grits should summon confidence to put candidates in the field, there can be no doubt of the result. The people of York or Charlotte will pause before they decide to oppose supporters of the most capable administration New Brunswick has had for years. It is more likely that the victory in all cases will be a bloodless one, but if a contest should come, the enthusiasm displayed yesterday augurs well for the success of Messrs. Clarke, Grimmer and Guthrie.

UNWISE AND UNPOPULAR.

When it was announced the other day that the management of the Intercolonial Railway had decided to reconsider the order withdrawing four suburban trains between St. John and Hampton, The Standard believed that Mr. Gutellus, general manager of the Government Railway, had been impressed with the fact that to lessen the service on this very important part of the railway was an injustice to many persons who had built their homes there on the understanding that the service would not be interfered with. There was a storm of protest

last week, when the change was first projected, and it was this protest that led to the announced reconsideration. It does not seem that Mr. Gutellus had been convinced there were sound business reasons for allowing the trains to remain on the route, and it is evident the protesting must be done all over again.

Whether the suburban trains are or are not being operated at a profit does not enter into the case. The people residing along the line between St. John and Hampton have been promised that their facilities of communication with St. John should not be interfered with and this promise should be kept. Mr. Gutellus is a very able railway man and, if managing a company owned road, could doubtless justify the change on the ground that it is intended to curtail on a losing service during the months when traffic is lightest, but in spite of this, The Standard agrees with the residents along the portion of the road affected, in believing the removal of the four trains between St. John and Hampton to be an unfair proceeding which will entail much loss and inconvenience. These residents have rights to a good railway connection with St. John. It was on this understanding alone that they located there and hoped to build up several thriving villages. To deprive them of their rights now is a short sighted and unfair policy. The trains in question should be restored at once.

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

Very Rev. Daniel Miner Gordon, the distinguished Canadian educator, who was born at Pictou, N. S., 49 years ago today, the son of William Gordon, a merchant. He was educated at Pictou Academy and the University of Glasgow and Berlin, and in 1866 was ordained a minister of the Church of Scotland by the Presbytery of Ayr. Returning to Canada in 1867, he became pastor of St. Andrew's church in Ottawa. He remained there fifteen years and during that period gained a reputation as one of the great preachers of the Dominion. During this period he made a journey through the Western Canada prairies and across the mountains and northern British Columbia, and published an account of the trip under the title of "Mountain and Prairie." In 1882 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and in 1888 to the pulpit of St. Andrew's church in Halifax. Twenty years ago he began his career as an educator as professor of theology in the Presbyterian College of Halifax. In 1896 he was moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In 1901 he succeeded to the great office of principal of Queen's University at Kingston.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

WALTER DAMROSCH FIFTY-TWO TODAY America's most distinguished conductor—orchestra, not railway—is Walter Damrosch, who was born in Breslau, Prussia, fifty-two years ago today. His father, Dr. Leopold Damrosch, began his career as a practicing physician, but later turned to music and became a composer, conductor and violinist. He came to America with his family in 1869, and was the first to introduce German opera to the music lovers on this side of the Atlantic. He died in 1885, shortly after concluding a highly successful season of German opera at the Metropolitan Opera House. His sons, Frank H. and Walter Damrosch, were worthy successors of their distinguished sire, and both early attained to the highest position in the musical world. The elder Damrosch was the founder of the Oratorio and Symphony societies of New York, and on his death, his place as director of those organizations. In 1896 he rendered Wagner's "Parsifal" in concert form, for the first time in America, and twenty years ago he organized the Damrosch Opera Company for the production of Wagner. A little later he produced "The Scarlet Letter," which was successfully produced in a number of American cities. The New York Symphony Orchestra, which he organized permanently in 1908, represents the greatest of his musical activities.

THE BULGARIAN CROWN PRINCE Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria, who will pass his twentieth birthday today, may soon be called upon to mount the throne of his unhappy land. Car Ferdinand, his father, who at the beginning of the Balkan war was acclaimed as the future ruler of the restored Byzantine empire, and who hoped to win the throne of the Balkans by the victory which his troops did most and suffered most to win, and hundreds of thousands of Bulgars have been on the verge of starvation since the close of the conflict, while nearly every family mourns of at least one of its male members. It is an unhappy prospect that faces the young Prince if he should be called upon to take up the reins of government.

THE PASSING DAY

A SLAVE WHO BECAME QUEEN Religious houses in various cities and towns of France will celebrate today the festival of their patron, St. Bathildes, the slave who became a queen. Bathildes was an Englishwoman and lived in the seventh century. As a girl she was captured by a band of French marauders, who carried her off to France and sold her as a slave, at a very low price, to a Saxon, who was mayor of the palace under King Clovis II. When she had attained womanhood, her master was so pleased with her in the seventh century. As a girl she was captured by a band of French marauders, who carried her off to France and sold her as a slave, at a very low price, to a Saxon, who was mayor of the palace under King Clovis II. When she had attained womanhood, her master was so pleased with her in the seventh century. As a girl she was captured by a band of French marauders, who carried her off to France and sold her as a slave, at a very low price, to a Saxon, who was mayor of the palace under King Clovis II. When she had attained womanhood, her master was so pleased with her in the seventh century.

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IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID.



Father—"John, you know I disapprove very much of your fighting, but I cannot help feeling very proud of you for thrashing such a big boy as that. What did you thrash him for?" Son (indignant)—"Why, he said I looked like you."

his spouse and queen. This elevation from a position of servitude to that of a royal consort did not make Bathildes haughty and proud. Rather, she is related, she became more humble than before. She used her influence with the monarch to bring about the abolition of the enslavement of Christians. When the king died she became regent, and filled France with religious houses and hospitals. When her son Clovis became king she retired to a convent, and in her latter years was remarkable for her devotion to the poor and the sick. Her memory is still perpetuated by many convents and churches in France.

BICENTENARY OF MRS. CIBBER. This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Susannah Maria Cibber, one of the greatest of English actresses and a singer of such power that Handel wrote especially for her the contralto songs in "The Messiah." Mrs. Cibber, as she was generally known during the period of her fame, was born in 1714, although the exact date is unknown, and died Jan. 30, 1766, just 148 years ago today. She was buried in Westminster Abbey, the first actress so honored, and her eternal epitaph is the exclamation of the great Garrick when he heard of her death: "The tragedy has expired with her!"

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Dugan Was Safe

Dugan, the roofer, was sent to a millionaire's palatial home, to try to find a leak in the roof. As he entered the front hall, the butler whispered to Dugan, "You are requested to be careful of the hardwood floors as you go upstairs, they've just been polished." "Sure, there's no danger as long as I'm slippin' on 'em," Dugan replied. "Oh, how spikes in me shoes."

Willie's Request

A woman, leading a little boy, said to the ticket agent in a railroad station: "What is the fare to Newmouth?" "Thirty cents," the agent answered. "I've told you that eight times now," he added mildly. "I know you have," the woman answered, smiling; "but little Willie likes to see you come to the window. He says it reminds him of the Zoo."

Essence of Courtesy

Two miners were returning from a lecture, when one of them after a thoughtful pause, remarked: "Say, Bill! I don't see the necessity of bringin' chaps from Lunnun to teach us about manners. We know 'em. We haint so bad as that feller made out!" "O course we haint," replied Bill. "Not by a long way," said the first. "I never swear before my wife. 'No more don't I!' put in Bill. 'I allus see ladies fust! That's me.'"

She—"Did you make papa come to terms, as you said you would?" He—"Yes, and they were the very worst that anyone ever applied to me."

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EVENING AGAIN

BAD

That Paper Surprising ledge of Cl The Police

Although it is the last session of the act was passed by the council of the chief mon council when bent retrics or is surprise has been evening paper that not ask for the po instead of requ of the chief. The gave an illustra civic affairs wher council yesterday the police report. to The Standard, dealt with some before the council ferred to was a L Lillian in which other commission ty for sending t the government against which Pr tested and which demand order ed. It is not in the ment to give the er to appoint the legislature has al that power, sube death, or removal The government chief for cause, b an act of the leg The act refered

Chap

An act to vest the chief of police in the comm

Passed May

(1) Upon a vac office of chief of St. John either b or otherwise, it a ful for the comm of St. John, and ing the pleasure, orized and empow time, to appoint son to be chief of St. John, who sha ing the pleasure, cil, and shall, du be invested with duties appertaini chief of police, as of the Act of 95 of the Act of Chapter 37, and any law or statu of police of the the police force (2) So much of the Act of Assen as is inconsistent as repealed.

INFORM ON

Hon. J. D. H. Response St. John Bo

The Board of T munication from terday accompan information aske enable it to make safety of naviga Fundy, Hon. Mr. balance of the would be forward the officials of th lected it.

Officials of the much gratified at to their request time for the boar formation is in the submit it to the

B

HANSON—At M Mrs. Paul H. doing well.

Thought Noth Would Heart

Mrs. J. D. Tallo vest "I have from heart disea I have had reso treatment I coul including the sk I suffered so for have felt that no end my misery, friend, who had s misery, just as I b by Milburn's H to give them a so. I am delig is am now com and sleep as years.

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