

THE WEATHER.
 Conditions moderate to fresh
 winds, clearing, stationary or a
 little higher temperature.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
 TODAY—Afternoon 2.15 and 8.45.
 Evening 7.15 and 8.45.
 MARY PICKFORD IN
POOR LITTLE PEPPINA

VOL. VIII. NO. 54. SIXTEEN PAGES SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1916. PRICE TWO CENTS

OPPOSITION SLANDERBUND MUST EITHER RETRACT OR PROVE CASE

HOW BLAIR REWARDED J. B. DAGGETT FOR ACT OF SIMPLE KINDNESS

An Absolute Reply from Secretary for Agriculture to Latest Telegraph Falsehood in Regard to \$500 Payment.

Whining Appeal of man Whose Word Commissioner Teed Would Not Take Evoked Sympathetic Response and Much Needed Help—Vilification Mr. Daggett's Reward.

The statement by Rev. J. B. Daggett, secretary for agriculture, referred to by Hon. Mr. Murray, and which was prepared when John Morrissy made his first allegation in regard to the \$500 payment, some weeks before H. M. Blair commenced his literary work for the Telegraph is as follows:

I have read the statement of Mr. John Morrissy, ex-Minister of Public Works, regarding the payment of \$500 by myself, with the knowledge and consent of the Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Mr. Murray, upon a certain election note.

I have made many blunders in my life, but the greatest blunder, the worst mistake, I ever made was when I listened to the pleadings of Harry M. Blair and assisted him in what he professed to be a tight corner.

I ordinarily do not pay the least attention to unfair criticism and, especially to falsehoods. I have learned there is nothing so harmless, nothing that dies so quickly, as a lie. Leave it alone and it dies because of its own nature and does no harm. But the statement made in connection with the payment of this \$500 is so leprous I feel I should help it along the road to death and burial.

The facts are: Mr. Blair met me several times after the by-election in York and spoke to me about an obligation he and some of his friends had assumed in connection with the Guthrie-Scott election. I had taken no part in this contest and did not feel myself under any obligation to assist. Mr. Blair explained it had been a stiff fight, that the party as a party had not put up a dollar, that the entire financial burden was borne by himself and a few friends, and again and again he appealed to me to contribute. To all of his appeals I turned a deaf ear. Months passed, and when about a year had gone by, Mr. Blair came to my office in a terrible state of mind. He said he was being pushed by the bank and was \$500 short for the next day and unless he could raise the required amount the bank would promptly issue a writ. He did not mind for himself, he was thinking only of Major Guthrie, who was at the front. He dwelt upon the sacrifice Guthrie was making and completely won my sympathy. He argued that I was closer to certain members of the party than himself and if I would take the matter up the necessary amount might be raised. I finally yielded to my sympathies and, against my better judgment, consented to see what I could do for him. I saw Mr. Murray. He at first refused point blank to have anything to do with it, but I argued with him that, admitting a mistake had been made, Guthrie was away fighting our battles and it was really his matter, and if \$500 would ease the situation we ought to try and raise it. My advice was bad, very bad. Mr. Murray finally stated that he had a great admiration for Guthrie and the stand he had taken in connection with the war and consented to see some of his friends and ascertain if the amount could be raised. The money had to be paid over the next day and I offered to advance the amount, provided I was reasonably assured that the money would be returned to me on a certain day when I had obligations falling due. The following morning I received that assurance and Blair was informed that I would assist him. From my personal account at the Canadian Bank of Commerce I drew the amount and pulled my friend Blair out of the mud, and in less than a week the money was paid back to me.

Needless to say, my friend Blair was most profuse in his thanks. On several occasions he expressed his great appreciation. I recall very distinctly meeting him on Queen street a day or two after, when he said to me: "Daggett, I appreciate more than I can say what you have done for me. I assure you I will not forget your kindness." He has been as good as his word; he has not forgotten my kindness. But little did I think that he would take my act of generosity and sympathy and use it to scandalize me the length and breadth of the country. I have only a feeling of pity and sorrow for a man of whose soul all honor, self-respect and, worst of all, gratitude, have died. I expect that Blair will deny every word, every syllable, of my statement. I expect nothing better of him. Nevertheless, the foregoing is true, in every particular and is just as it occurred. I shall not notice anything further that he or Mr. Morrissy may say. I leave the public to judge between us and will abide by their decision. I admit freely that I blundered in having anything to do with Blair. I fully realize that there are some who will believe his misrepresentations, but those who know the man best, believe him least.

I had thought the breed of Judas scoundrel had been extinct for nearly two thousand years, but evidently some of his blood still flows in the children of men; but let us be thankful that it is very thin and is only met with occasionally. Judas of old had the better of the modern Judas; he went and hanged himself; the modern Judas parades himself with amazing impudence, shameless and even proud of his iniquity.

J. B. DAGGETT.
 The Standard is assured that Mr. Daggett is prepared to swear to the truth of the foregoing in any court in the land.

EMPIRE DAY IDEA HAD ORIGIN IN CANADA

London, May 26.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—The Daily Chronicle in a note upon Empire Day, asserts that the Earl of Meath was not the originator of the day, but that it came into being in Hamilton, Ont., on June 6th, 1906, when Mrs. Clementina Pessenden first proposed patriotic sentiments among the school children.

HON. A. E. KEMP IS SERIOUSLY ILL

Toronto, May 26.—Hon. A. E. Kemp, minister without portfolio in the Borden cabinet, member of parliament for East Toronto, is seriously ill at his home, Castle Frank. It was reported tonight that he was a little better.

HON. JAS. A. MURRAY WILL ENTER ACTION AGAINST TELEGRAPH

M. G. Teed, K.C., Served Notice on A. P. Barnhill Yesterday Afternoon—Moncton Transcript Will Also be Proceeded Against—Carter's Press Supporters Must Swallow Falsehood or Stand Trial—A Blair "Bombshell" Which Exploded in the Enemy's Own Trench—Mr. Murray Determined That Miserable Misrepresentations Shall Not Go Unpunished.

Some climaxes have been reached in the last day or two of the campaign of slander and misrepresentation being waged against Hon. P. G. Mahoney in Westmorland by the Carter-Veniot party.

One of the developments yesterday, brought about by the publication of the Blair affidavit in reference to alleged campaign funds and the statement that the document was shown to Hon. George J. Clarke and Hon. James A. Murray in turn has led to actions for libel being commenced by Hon. Mr. Murray against the St. John Telegraph and Moncton Transcript.

After reading the statement in the Telegraph Hon. Mr. Murray immediately instructed his solicitor, Mr. M. G. Teed, K. C., of St. John, to take action for libel against that paper.

As the Moncton Transcript repeated the untruthful statements, Mr. Murray last evening gave instructions to his solicitor to also take similar action against the Moncton opposition organ.

Pursuant to Hon. Mr. Murray's instructions, Mr. Teed yesterday prepared the following notice which was served during the afternoon upon A. P. Barnhill, secretary of the Telegraph Publishing Company, after enquiry at the Telegraph office elicited the information that E. W. McCready, president of the Telegraph Company and editor of that newspaper was not in the city.

The Official Notice of Libel.

To The Telegraph Publishing Co.
 St. John, N. B.

Take notice that the article published in the issue of the Daily Telegraph of Friday the twenty-sixth day of May, A. D. 1916, headed "Bombshell in Westmorland as New Light on New Brunswick's Greatest Scandal" is Produced.

"Inside History of \$137,000 Campaign Fund as Detailed by Hon. H. F. McLeod, Provincial Secretary, before Dugal Charges were Heard of—A Self-corroborating Document that Pulls Down the Local Government House—Hon. Messrs. Clarke and Murray saw McLeod's Statement, which was to be Used on 'Flemming—It is Now Read at Westmorland Meetings'."

is false and defamatory and libelous as against me, and I the undermentioned James A. Murray, of Sussex, in the County of Kings and Province of New Brunswick representing the County of Kings in the House of Assembly of said Province, and at present Minister of Agriculture for said Province, do regard the case as libelous, and especially and particularly do regard as false, defamatory and libelous the paragraph thereof above mentioned where it states "Hon. Messrs. Clark and Murray saw McLeod's statement which was to be used on Fleming", and the later paragraph reading as follows:—

"Mr. Blair goes further in his statement, the truth of which is vouched for absolutely by the particularity with which it is given. He not only tells of the making of the note and reason why it was made, and why such a letter was addressed to The St. John Telegraph, apparently to frighten Fleming and his associates into providing the money for paying the note but also goes further and implicates the present Minister of Agriculture and his deputy in a \$500 payment that was made later provided out of funds which the public can only imagine were not procured from any private source as they were handled by a government official and given to retire a note for which no particular value was received."

and I require you the publisher of the said newspaper and articles above set forth, to publish in an issue of your paper The Daily Telegraph, within five days after service of this Notice upon you a full apology for the statements in the said article referring to me and above complained of.

Dated the twenty-sixth day of May, A. D. 1916.
 JAMES A. MURRAY,
 By M. G. Teed, Solicitor and Agent.
 M. G. TEED,
 Solicitor for James A. Murray.

Hon. Mr. Murray's Plain Statement.

Hon. Mr. Murray, who was in Moncton yesterday afternoon, made the following statement to The Standard in regard to the matter.

Mr. Murray said: "I was never shown or had any knowledge of any such statement as appears in the Telegraph this morning, alleged to have been dictated to H. M. Blair by Hon. H. F. McLeod. The first time I ever saw it was in this morning's issue of the Telegraph and I had no knowledge of any of the alleged payments referred to in that statement.

The Telegraph also says: "Mr. Blair goes further in his statement, the truth of which is vouched for absolutely by the particularity with which it is given. He not only tells of the making of the note and reason why it was made, and why such a letter was addressed to the St. John Telegraph, apparently to frighten Fleming and his associates into providing the money for paying the note, but also goes further and implicates the present Minister of Agriculture and his deputy in a \$500 payment that was made later, provided out of funds which the public can only imagine were not procured from any private source as they were handled by a government official and given to retire a note for which no particular value was received."

Shameful Libel on Rev. J. B. Daggett.

With regard to the above statement, Hon. Mr. Murray said that when he published his reply to the letter from Premier Clarke, dismissing him from office, he made reference to the \$500 payment by Mr. Daggett and myself. When that letter of Mr. Morrissy's was

PREMIER REGARDED THE BLAIR DOCUMENT AS A SPECIES OF BLACKMAIL

Hon. George Clarke Advised Blair to Publish any Statement He Might Have and Suggested Telegraph as Agency.

The Latest Opposition Scandal Completely Exposed—Provincial Government in no Way Affected and Fears no Document Blair or His Associates Can Produce.

The statement from Harvey M. Blair, the dismissed and discredited secretary of the Department of Public Works, which was featured in the Daily Telegraph of this morning is ancient literature. It had been used long before it was published by the St. John graft organ under the scare headings of which the Telegraph's attacks on the Government chiefly consist.

It is an old story that Mr. Blair carried the document referred to to Premier Clarke soon after he assumed office. Blair then suggested that it was a somewhat comprehensive document and intimated that the Liberals would be willing to pay a lot of money for it.

The Premier said he thought that might be so, although he was unable to express an opinion as to what the Liberals were paying for that class of literature.

Mr. Blair then requested advice as to what to do with it.

THE PREMIER, LOOKING ON THE PROPOSITION AS A SPECIES OF BLACKMAIL, PROMPTLY TOLD HIM THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR THE DOCUMENT TO BE MADE PUBLIC AT ONCE, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN IT, OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENT, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY REASON TO CONCEAL, AND SUGGESTING THE COLUMNS OF THE ST. JOHN TELEGRAPH AS A SUITABLE PLACE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THAT SORT OF LITERATURE.

This ended the incident, and shortly afterwards Mr. Blair folded the document, put it into his pocket and went away.

WHAT DID THE OPPOSITION PAY BLAIR?
 Now that the Telegraph comes out with a statement of the contents of the document it might be well for that journal to take the public into its confidence and state the amount paid by its party for the information which Mr. Blair, apparently, so willingly gives up, or, Mr. Blair might tell.

The public will have noted THE DOCUMENT IS DATED FEBRUARY 12TH, 1914, LONG BEFORE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS SWORN INTO OFFICE, and the wonder is that this reliable Mr. Blair, this martyr to the truth and honest dealing, should not long before this have made his knowledge public instead of concealing it until now. The fact remains, however, that THERE IS NOT ONE WORD IN THE WHOLE STATEMENT CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY, AND THE WHOLE TRANSACTION OCCURRED BEFORE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ASSUMED POWER UNDER PREMIER CLARKE.

Another "Solemn Declaration" made by Mr. Blair, and which is published by the Telegraph, with all the fixings, and which, it states, has been read at opposition meetings in the county of Westmorland during the present contest, relates to an election note which Mr. Blair claims was issued during the campaign in which Lieutenant-Colonel Percy A. Guthrie was selected as one of the representatives of York County in the legislature.

This is a matter concerning which the government had no knowledge, and seems to be between Mr. Blair and other gentlemen on the note who are particularly interested in the politics of York County. In this case, while there is no charge against the government, there is a charge against Mr. Fleming to the effect that he refused to contribute toward the note and, therefore, evidently in Mr. Blair's opinion, was worthy of deepest censure. There are some who have gone so far as to say that very little, if any, of the money realized from the note ever went into any election fund. IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR THE TELEGRAPH OR MR. BLAIR, OR SOME OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM, IF THEY KNOW, TO PUBLISH JUST HOW THE AMOUNT REALIZED WAS DISTRIBUTED.

NOT ONE WORD AFFECTS THE GOVERNMENT.
 Let it be repeated that not one word as yet published by the Telegraph and Mr. Blair, even if it were true, has involved the government in any degree, and that the transactions detailed relate principally to incidents in which Mr. Blair himself seems to have acted a principal part or was possessed of an intimate knowledge.

When Mr. Blair was confronted with dismissal, because of wrongdoing, he immediately undertook to threaten charges against members of the legislature, but HE WAS PROMPTLY AND DISTINCTLY TOLD THAT IF HE OR ANY OTHER HAD ANY CHARGES TO MAKE AGAINST ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, OR ANY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, THAT HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT OF IT WOULD BE WELCOME.

What he may conjure out of his ingenious and not very accurate brain, it is impossible to tell, but up to the present time he has done nothing but attempt to bring into discredit some of his personal friends who undoubtedly have shown him many favors and whom he is now rewarding after his own characteristic style.

In the meantime, WHILE THE TELEGRAPH FINDS COLUMNS FOR MR. BLAIR'S "SOLEMN DECLARATIONS," IT CANNOT FIND SPACE TO TELL THE PUBLIC THE TRUTH CONCERNING ITS PRINCIPAL OWNER'S CONNECTION WITH W. H. BERRY IN HIS COLLECTIONS OF MONIES FROM THE LUMBERMEN.

German Attack Breaks down Before French Fire.

Paris, May 26 (10.40 p. m.)—The war office communication, issued this evening, says: "On the left bank of the Meuse the artillery has been particularly active in the region of Avoncourt and Hill 264. An intermittent bombardment of our second lines has taken place. "Of the right bank of the Meuse,

during the afternoon, the enemy carried out a strong attack against our trenches of the approach to Fort Douaumont. This attack was completely repulsed with heavy losses by our infantry and mitrailleuse fire. "Our artillery caught under its fire and scattered German troops on the move in the Chaufour wood. "There is nothing of importance to report from the remainder of the front."

(Continued on Page 2)