

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1914.

## MR. BAXTER'S STATEMENT.

Mr. J. B. M. Baxter went on the stand in the Dugal enquiry yesterday afternoon and cleared the air regarding the stories circulated of payments to him of sums of money for legal services by the president of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company. While under oath Mr. Baxter not only explained the circumstances of the payment to him of a \$500 retainer, but money he returned as soon as he learned that the company engaging him intended to ask for additional assistance from the Government of New Brunswick, but he went a step further and told the court what he had heard at an informal committee meeting in Fredericton of a proposal, alleged to have come from Mr. Carvell's associates and to have received the endorsement of Mr. Carvell himself, to the effect that, under certain conditions, the promoters of the Dugal charges were prepared to entirely drop the matter of the timber limits and to press the Valley Railway charge only in a perfunctory manner.

According to Mr. Baxter's information the conditions of clemency included an admission of guilt from Mr. Flemming, to be openly and publicly read to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the retirement of Mr. Flemming from the premiership, as well as from his seat in the House, and the contribution by the Conservative party of \$10,000 to be used in payment of "detective services" performed by Mr. E. S. Carter and others. With these conditions fulfilled the promoters of the charges, Mr. Baxter said, were prepared to handle the charges as stated and in addition to permit the Government candidates to have elections in this province with the exception of Carleton County, St. John City and St. John County.

Mr. Baxter's recital of the story was clear and concise although it must be said in fairness to Mr. Carvell that he was prompt to make reply to it at least so far as it concerned him. A careful perusal of Mr. Carvell's statement, however, will lead to the impression that it is more of an evasion than a denial. If he intended it as a denial it must be remembered that he did not make it under oath while Mr. Baxter's story was told. Unless there should be a presentation of additional evidence most convincing in its character that such a proposal did not emanate from, nor was not considered by Mr. Carvell, or any of his associates, Mr. Baxter's story is entitled to credence. It was told under oath and for that reason must carry much weight.

## THE TELEGRAPH IS AGITATED

The Standard thoroughly realizes the advisability of all parties in Canada coming together in a common effort for the defence of this country as well as the rendering to the mother land of the full measure of assistance Canadian manhood and Canadian money can provide. Recognizing this we have also deemed it necessary to point out soberly and carefully that while the duty of Canada at this hour is plain, it was just as plain in the early months of last year when the Canadian people, through their elected representatives in the council halls of the nation, were afforded the opportunity of returning an affirmative reply to the Empire's appeal. When the Empire was not at war, and when preparations such as are necessary today could have been made quietly and calmly. The Liberals, led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier deliberately, and for political purposes, strangled the Canadian sentiment in favor of the Borden plan of naval aid, and through the medium of the partisan Senate, succeeded in preventing it from becoming operative. Had the proposal been carried out Canada today would have been represented in the Empire's fighting line. That we are not so represented is a responsibility for which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates must answer to the country. It is but natural that mention of these things, at a time when the Telegraph is indulging in one of its periodical spasms of Laurier laudation should set that paper in a state of mind and, consequently, the lengthy editorial wall in yesterday's issue was to be expected. The Telegraph, however, has a poor case, and no amount of editorial fulmination will serve to distract attention from the attitude it and its party assumed in 1913, when the question of Empire Aid was under consideration in Parliament.

The Liberal party of that day had but one policy, a policy of shreds and patches held together only by the mullage of hope that continued opposition might succeed in blocking the Borden proposal. Anything that would again bring the Laurierites into possession of the offices and patronage of the country was warmly advocated by the Telegraph.

Because the ammunition then used by the party will not stand the white heat of the present stressful hour, but appears pitiful and mean, the Telegraph is now ready to cry quits.

Patriotic Liberals today, not the mere mercenaries on the outskirts of the party who would be as willing to fight under the Conservative banner if assured that the commissariat would take care of them, are heartily ashamed of their party's attitude in the Naval debate, and many of them are prepared to admit that opposition to the Borden proposal was a colossal blunder. The Canterbury street mercenary is well aware of this feeling in the rank and file of the party, and that is the real reason why it is desirous of postponing discussion of the questions until a more propitious hour, it approaches its proposals for peace, however, in particularly clumsy fashion. First, it scolds The Standard, intimates that this is no time for discussion of partisan questions, a most refreshing admission from the Telegraph, and then proceeds to declare its own state of preparedness, should such encounters come about. "We are somewhat confident that we have the information and the facilities for taking care of such unpopularity as those which The Standard finds itself unable to avoid, even in an hour like this," is the modest summing up of the pugilist organ. This is the nearest approach to a definite statement the Telegraph has yet made, and it must have a back-stiffening effect upon the rank and file of the Liberal party to receive such assurance. Through the action of Laurier and his camp followers Canada was deprived of some of the "facilities" she might have had at this time, therefore it is encouraging to note that, though the heavens fall, the mighty Telegraph is prepared for battle.

Probably it might be regarded as the proper thing for The Standard to start in the face of such portentous warning from our swollen neighbor, to make for the cyclopean cellar to avoid the wrath to come. Possibly also, it is not the time to obtrude political questions upon the public, but in spite of the Telegraph this paper claims the right to discuss the Liberal position on the question of Naval Aid, or on any other matter, just when and where we elect to do so. If the Telegraph has the "information" and the "facilities" it claims to have, we can imagine no time better than the present for their production. It is more than likely they will be found useful.

## "FIGHTING SAM"

(Montreal Star.)

Sam Hughes has had his critics—he has not always been kind to him ourselves—but there will be a general feeling today that he is the right man in the right place at the head of our military preparations. When the Canadian army corps goes to Europe, we want a practical soldier and an effective fighter leading it on; and we cannot possibly make a better choice for the position than the man who was so eager to get into South Africa fray that he forced himself on the troopship as an unattached officer, trusting to a chance to volunteer at Cape Town.

Fighting is the business of fighters; and on that count, "Sam" qualifies. We are all glad to have pugnacious Winston Churchill at the Admiralty at this time. We will all be glad if Lord Kitchener is put in charge of the War Office. Admiral Callaghan—commander of the "fighting race"—commands the fleet. "Sam" Hughes is the sort of material who should be at the head of the Militia Department today, and who—if he carries out his own suggestion and goes to Europe with our troops—will bear with him the best wishes and fullest confidence of our people.

The Telegraph remarks: "The Standard deliberately misrepresents this newspaper in the matter of an Ottawa despatch discussing the question of removing gold from the savings banks for purposes of safety. It must be clear, even to the Standard, that if such a step were taken the security of the depositors would be greatly increased instead of being in any way diminished by the removal of specie from an unfortified point to some place of safety." The Standard was at no time misled regarding the possibility of the Dominion Government removing gold from the local savings bank. The fact that the Telegraph announced it as a likely course was sufficient to make it improbable. The people inconvenienced, however, were those who, through insufficient knowledge of the Canterbury street newspaper, believed its statements and withdrew their savings. However, the Telegraph story has been officially contradicted from headquarters and the Telegraph itself admitted it was not correct. That being the case, why pursue it further?

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.  
Pop and me was standing awn the cornie waling for a car to go home this afternoon and we wated a law time and no car cam and pop sed, Confound it, this isent a transi kumpiny, its a perpetual gain of hide and seek. Heer kums wun, pop, I sed. Wich wun was on insted of stoping it hepp rite awn going past, and pop taved his arms and the car hepp awn going still pritty soon it was out of site. Wy the devil didnt it stop, sed pop, it wasent so full that it coodnt stop, was it, blast it awl, these motormen and honductors are getting darned pertickuler awl of a suddin. May be they didnt see you, I sed. May be the moon is made out of green cheese and then agen may be its only ordnery peanut butter sed pop. And we hepp awn wating anuthir lawag wile and aftir a wile pop sed, O, well, as Shakespear ses, For the luvof Mike, make yureself at hoam. And he took out a segar and litt it and jest then anuthir car cam alawing. Thats rite, sho up wen I dont want you, sed pop. And he throo the segar in the street and went out to the car tracks to let the care no it was sippod to stop, ony the car hepp rite awn going jest as if it didnt no it. Well Im a hecker if Ill stand this eny lawngir, sed pop, thare got a good segar and anuthir car both at the same time. I've got a good mind to report sumpbody for this. May be the moon is made out of green cheese, sed pop. And we wated thare and thare moar cars went past as if nobuddy was standing thare wating thare arms, wich sumpbody was, beeing pop, and then a messingir boy wawked past, saying, Hay, mistir, yure not wating heer for a car are you. Wat do you think Im doing, looking for tomorow mornings sunrise, sed pop. Well, you mits as well, because the cars dont stop heer eny moar, they stop awn the uthir cornie, sed the messingir boy. Wich they do, because we went ovir to see, and the first wun that cam alawing stoped. Wich pop ses proves that everything kums to him who wates, perviding he wates in the rite place.

Among the gentlemen noticed in the court room yesterday afternoon during the time Mr. Baxter was on the witness stand were Dr. John M. Smith, W. J. Mahoney, Rev. H. E. Thomas and Dr. C. F. Gorham. We assume they are to be included in the ranks of those to whom Mr. Carvell sneeringly referred as "Baxter's minions."

The request of Col. Sam Hughes that Canadian newspapers shall refrain from publishing accurate information regarding preparations for defence of Canadian centres is both a wise and a reasonable one. All publications will respect it.

## HEARD GRITS AGREED TO DROP MATTER FOR PRICE; SENSATIONAL SESSION

(Continued from page 3)

men present when it was read. A—I absolutely refuse. Mr. Carvell—Now, may it please your honor, in view of the statement made by this witness, I want here, in the most solemn manner possible, to declare that every word this man has stated about a proposition for a settlement, as far as I am concerned, is absolutely false, and without foundation. I want to say that such a proposal was never made to me, I have never heard of it, and it is also absolutely false, and without foundation. I want to declare to you that I ever in my life was approached by any member of the Conservative party, by any friend of Mr. Flemming's, or by any person representing him, to make a settlement of this matter.

Mr. Baxter—Members of your own party approached you. Mr. Carvell—I know nothing whatever of the drawing of such a document as Baxter refers to, and every statement he has made as far as I am concerned is absolutely false, and I call upon Mr. George W. Fowler to substantiate the truth of every statement I have made. Mr. Fowler—I think it only fair to Mr. Carvell that I should say that so far as I know, representing the government, that the statement he has made is absolutely true, that no such offer was made, nor were any negotiations carried on by Mr. Carvell in any way, so far as I know, and I believe his statement is absolutely true. I don't know where my friend got his information, but as Mr. Carvell has called upon me to make a statement I feel I should make it.

## Morning Session.

At the morning session Hon. H. P. McLeod, M. P., took the stand and was examined by Mr. Carvell. Witness stated that he had never had conversation with James Holland regarding acting as an arbitrator. The inference in this connection was unfounded. He had never approached Judge Carleton nor any other judge regarding acting as an arbitrator. Q—Did you have a conversation with John S. Scott about railway matters? A—Yes. Q—Did you know anything about the quantities on the Scott & Kelly contract? A—I never had any idea of the quantities. Q—Did you tell Mr. Scott that no one could get a contract on that part of the work without your consent? A—That is absolutely untrue. Q—Mr. Scott said further that he had held out for 27c, and you said you would try to get it for him. You had then said the difference should be split. Is this so? A—We said only that he should get the best possible price. The sum of 27c was never mentioned and there was no talk of splitting the extra cent. I said I'd see my brother Norman of the Hibbard Construction Co. on his behalf. I never told Scott if he wasn't used right I would use my influence as Provincial Secretary to see that he was. This is absolute nonsense.

Witness positively denied that he had told Scott there should be something in it for him, and that he had spoken to Kelly about splitting the extra cent. Q—Did you say if Kelly & Scott weren't used right you would sign no bonds until they were? A—That's absolutely a lie. Cross-examined by Mr. Carvell, Hon. Mr. McLeod named several firms with which he had been in contact and of his dealings with them. He had done nothing toward securing the contract for the Hibbard Construction Co., and had no interest whatever in the concern. Witness then told of his brother's connection with the Hibbard Co. Referring to the Holland incident witness stated that Carvell had made misleading insinuations to which Carvell replied that he had not told what Holland had said.

Mr. McLeod stated he had gone to Mr. Holland and asked him to testify concerning Carvell's statement before the commission but had met with a refusal. Mr. Carter—If you have any doubt about it call Judge Carleton. O, Witness—You don't still believe that I went to Judge Carleton? Mr. Carvell—Yes, I do. Witness—Well, I say here and now to Mr. Carter—Call Judge Carleton in all decency. I asked Mr. Carvell to call Holland to support his accusation and he didn't do it. Yet he stands up here and says from the depths of his ignorance that he doesn't believe the witness. I move that Mr. Carvell's statement be struck from the record. Judge McKeown—Mr. Carter, sit down. Mr. Carter withdrew from the court. Hon. Mr. McLeod positively stated that there was no connection whatever between the retainer of \$1,500 and the Scott and Kelly contract. Mr. Scott had said several times that he wanted to pay Mr. McLeod a retainer for his services. Witness was of the opinion that Scott and Kelly had committed perjury. He had not asked John Scott to leave the country but had told Scott's brother, William, to tell him to stay and testify. A—I absolutely refuse. To Mr. Fowler witness said the interests of the various companies he was acting for in a legal way did not clash. Judge McKeown asked if Mr. Carvell had any questions to ask, and Mr. Fowler stated he had been asked to act for Mr. Carter, who had with drawn in consequence of having been asked by the chairman to sit down when he was addressing the court. Mr. Ross Thompson was recalled and examined by Mr. Carvell regarding the cost of stations and other parts of the work.

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