

The Standard



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TELEPHONE CALLS:

Business Office Main 1722
Editorial and News Main 1746

Chicago Representative:
Henry DeClerque, 701-702 Schiller Building,
New York Office:
L. Klebahn, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 26, 1910

EVADING THE ISSUE.

After remaining under cover since the suit in the Exchequer Court was settled so disastrously for Mr. Pugsley, the Telegraph yesterday felt compelled to come to the assistance of the Times, the junior organ, and present a rehash of the lame defence of Mr. Pugsley, which has of late been appearing at frequent intervals. It contributed nothing that will serve to enlighten a waiting public as to why Mr. Pugsley, after strenuously denying that he owed Mr. Mayes one cent of his claims, suddenly decided at the last minute to keep the case out of court and pay him nearly \$10,000.

Following in the wake of the Times, the Telegraph says The Standard has insinuated that Mr. Pugsley "inspired, or agreed to, a settlement in the Mayes' case," through a desire to save himself, or some of his "friends, from revelations which might have been made had the case gone to trial." The Telegraph is too diffident. The Standard has done more than "insinuate." It has stated without any reservation that Mr. Pugsley settled the case over the heads of his counsel himself, and agreed in particular to pay one item of \$5,090 in full, rather than run the risk of Mr. George McAvity, who was subpoenaed, going on the stand and having to submit to examination by Mr. Mayes' counsel.

Continuing, the Telegraph says "this matter" was brought to the attention of Mr. Pugsley, and that he sent a direct and specific denial. No one has seen it, and we fail to find it in the Telegraph's article. The only denial from Mr. Pugsley deals with the dredge Beaver, a reference to which appeared in the Globe, and was republished in The Standard. The article in the Globe, for some reason, threw Mr. Pugsley's organs into a state bordering on hysteria. They proceeded to place a false interpretation on it, and were very pointedly taken to task by the Globe yesterday in an editorial which appears in this issue.

The Telegraph and the Times seem to be priding themselves on a suggestion which they have put forward that Mr. Pugsley may have committed a felony, and that Mr. Hazen and Mr. Baxter, counsel for Mr. Mayes, joined with him in compounding it. Even The Standard never suggested anything worse than that concerning Mr. Pugsley. At all events there is this much to be said. Mr. Pugsley was very careful not to let any evidence come out in the witness box from which the public could decide whether or not the inference of his organs with regard to him is correct.

"THE DREDGE AGAIN."

The following editorial was published yesterday in the Globe:

"The Telegraph and its satellite have for a week been publishing all kinds of statements in regard to a paragraph which appeared in the Globe referring to the settlement of the case brought by Mr. G. S. Mayes, a contractor, in a suit against the Department of Public Works. It will be remembered that Mayes brought an action against the government to recover a sum of about \$60,000, which he alleged was due him on some dredging contract with the Public Works Department. Before the case was tried, the Minister of Public Works himself came upon the scene here before the Exchequer Court, and, taking the matter out of the hands of the law officers of the Crown, effected a settlement with Mayes' lawyers by which Mayes got nearly ten thousand dollars from the government and he was allowed costs in the case.

"The action of the minister was very generally approved by the people, for they considered, whether they knew much about the matter or not, that it was a good settlement for the Crown. On the other hand, friends of the contractor vigorously declared that it was an excellent settlement for him, and alleged that he was well satisfied.

"When Mr. Mayes' differences with the Public Works Department became acute, a large dredge which he owned, a very excellent machine, was laid up under expenses and was idle. It was understood, and was common rumor, that Mayes could not sell this dredge, or even lease her, to any one employed as a contractor with the government, and that as the result of the quarrel in which he had involved himself with the department that controls government dredging, he could not utilize his dredge.

"This may or may not have been so. In making this statement, and in printing the paragraph which follows, describing public opinion upon the matter, the following appeared in the Globe:

"There is much local discussion over the settlement of the G. S. Mayes case against the government. A 'large body of people seem to think that the settlement, as 'told to the public, does not absolutely dispose of the whole matter. One report current, and very generally credited, is that as a result of the settlement of this suit, Mr. Mayes' fine dredge Beaver will again become a factor in the dredging work of the country. 'Since Mr. Mayes finished his contract, this dredge has been laid up in Carleton. There were rumors on different occasions that the dredge had been sold and was to be put to work, but nothing ever came of these and of late the public has been led to the belief that 'some mysterious power operated to prevent the sale of this dredge, prospective buyers fearing that they might not be successful in their undertakings. The 'hoodoo' or 'ban' or prohibition or whatever it was that hung over the Beaver, undoubtedly the finest dredge that

has yet worked in St. John, is said to have vanished following the settlement of the dispute, and there are 'many men who say they will not be surprised to read 'any day that the dredge has been sold, or that she is 'to be again set to work digging mud and boulders, 'either here or at some other point in Canada.'

"It will be noted that the Globe was here merely recording and stating the public sentiment, belief, feeling, or whatever it may be called, upon the matter, and popular belief and rumors respecting the terms of settlement. What the Globe said was absolutely true. There were in existence, in the community, the beliefs, ideas and feeling that an understanding was reached in the matter which was favorable to the dredge, and that whatever belief may have existed as regarded her future non-employment might properly disappear. This was what the Globe stated, and it went no further.

"But, for some reason or other, the papers printed in the Telegraph office were greatly worried over this matter. It was said that the Globe had published a 'malicious article,' an article that 'was absolutely without foundation,' and that it was 'invented to injure the minister.' Not satisfied with this, a despatch was sent to Mr. Pugsley, apparently intimating to him that the Globe had published a story 'that in the settlement of the Mayes case there was a secret agreement by the Minister of Public Works to purchase or employ the Mayes dredge Beaver.' The Globe had made no such statement. The minister is reported to have replied to this despatch to the effect:

"With regard to settlement of Mayes' case, no suggestion was made to me that I should agree to purchase or employ dredge Beaver, and there was no understanding to this effect."

"Naturally, answering the telegram sent him, Mr. Pugsley made the above statement, which is of no interest to the Globe, as it denies something this paper did not assert.

"There is a phase of this part of the business to which it might be well to direct public attention. For some reason or other the Telegraph and its adjuncts have been very sore and very bitter over the intimations that the dredge Beaver was relieved from the disability under which she was believed to labor since the quarrel between the contractor and the minister. It is most anxious to persuade itself that the settlement does not in any way help the Beaver, and if that machine were a business rival, the Telegraph could not feel worse than it does at the situation.

"It seems to us from the point of view from which we regard matters of this kind that if the Minister of Public Works had found that the Beaver was really under the ban of his department and had freed it from that ban it could be fairly claimed for him that he exhibited reasonable magnanimity. In the origin of the trouble which separated two such warm friends as Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Mayes it would be not regarded as unnatural and unreasonable for the minister in the first flush of his feelings to anathematize the Beaver and all its work.

"But as time dulled the unpleasant feeling which had been engendered, it would not be unnatural to expect that, so long as the public right was not affected, the minister would speedily take the view that as soon as the public interest demanded or required the use of the Beaver, private feelings would give way, to the general interest.

"If Mr. Pugsley had adopted this line of action apparently no one but the Telegraph would have mourned over the matter. There are persons who are not in the dredge business and these would be glad to see all the available dredges put to work."

It is quite evident from the Globe's summary of the dredging business in St. John, that the public has justifiable cause for wonder why such a well equipped dredge as the Beaver should have remained idle since July 1908, when so much dredging is required in this harbor. It is absurd to suppose that such a valuable property, which includes a large tug, should be laid up for more than two years without some reason.

During the heat of the election campaign two years ago the fact was brought out that Mr. Mayes, some time previously, had paid Mr. George McAvity \$35,933 made up as follows:

1906.	
January 29	..... \$ 4,000
July 6	..... 2,000
August 8	..... 2,000
August 24	..... 4,000
October 20	..... 4,000
Nov. 23	..... 2,000
1907.	
April 6	..... 4,300
August 1	..... 5,000
Nov. 12	..... 8,633
Total	..... \$35,933

After the payment of the last amount, Mr. Mayes wrote to Mr. McAvity stating emphatically that he would not pay him any more money as a toll, on the ground that he was the lowest tenderer, and that Mr. McAvity had not carried out his part of an agreement. Then what happened? Mr. John E. Moore, with whom Mr. McAvity formed an alliance, came upon the scene with a fleet of dredges and tugs and has been industriously engaged in dredging ever since. The inference is clear. Had Mr. Mayes continued to make payments to Mr. McAvity his dredge, the Beaver, would be working yet.

Current Comment

(Montreal Gazette.)

The United States consul in the West Indies, in a recent report, pointed out that a good opportunity existed to invest United States capital in a brewery. The consul is now charged by the prohibitionists with being the father of "a new and horrible missionary propaganda by which American, or, rather, imported brewers hope to wring from the wretched coolie the few cents that constitute his daily wage." This attack will probably be a great surprise to the consul. When he made the recommendation he was, in all likelihood, more concerned with the satisfaction of his own thirst than that of the coolie.

(London Advertiser.)

While every Canadian newspaper, Grit or Tory, dissents from the proposal to change the title of King to Emperor, Sir Gilbert Parker declares that "every man living in the colonies would regard it as a tribute paid to himself, to his position in the activities and responsibilities which surround the monarchy today." Which only shows how far Sir Gilbert has got in touch with his native country. He now sees us through a monocle, darkly.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Contractor Mayes has won his suit in full against the government, "by consent," as the Globe says. But you can just gamble it was with the most unwilling consent of Bill Pugsley.

(Toronto News.)

Why is it that the sex that does the most weeping is satisfied with a handkerchief three inches square?

(Toronto Star.)

When a man has no fall Gervat he can afford to regard cool mornings as delightfully invigorating.

The Standard's Old Reporter

"I don't know what's got into my friend Jamesy, these days," said Hiram as he watched the merry men of the department of public works boring holes in Courtenay Bay. "Way he talks to the New Reporter, you'd think he thought the Hon. Bill was a sort of Emperor Billy, who had only to move his horny fist to make Hays and Perks and all them big fellows dance to his tune. But Bill is not that sort. I've known him ever since he was a young innocent in knickerbockers, and he never believed in emporizing. He'd sooner temporize any day."

No sir, I was at that banquet, and I think that Jamesy must have taken aboard too much fizzy-water and got to seeing things. Struck me, Hays hypnotized more than Jamesy, though I heard a chap asking: 'Is Portland in Canada?'

"What did Hays say?" asked the Old Reporter. "I had enjoyed the hospitality of the Board of Trade so much and the press table was so far away from anywhere that I could not hear half what was said."

"Well, sir," answered Hiram, "Hays said he wasn't a prophet. He'd been in that business once and had predicted that the Laurier government with the assistance of providence would be able to build the new transcontinental for next to nothing. However, as a prophet he had lost honor in his own country, and had handed over the prophet department of his business to his old friend Bill of the sugary tongue. Hereafter he would content himself looking for profits."

"So Mr. Hays didn't promise anything except that trains would come here, and that St. John would not be more business than it deserved. Get busy, my children, he says, and see that the G. T. P. gets all it wants. The Laurier government, and Mr. Pugsley, my man Friday, are doing their best for us, and the expense account is soaring like a balloon, but it is up to you to see that the government of which friend Bill is such an obedient member, provides us with terminal facilities, and anything else we might want. The G. T. may have spent money to provide terminals in Portland, but the G. T. P. considering how much it is getting from the people of Canada, can't be expected to spend its own money on such things. We would not insult the generosity of the great Canadian people. We consider ourselves the guests of the government, and we would not think of spending money except to tip the servants in the house. You are a great people. Therefore you will get busy and give us what the stingy Yanks wouldn't think of doing."

"But did he tell 'em to vote for the Hon. Bill?" the reporter asked. "All depends on your point of view, I reckon. Certain it was he told 'em that Bill was the man to make the people foot the bills for anything the new plutocracy wants."

"And Bill—when Bill got up 'twas plain he was playing second fiddle. Yes sir, Jamesy must have been imbibing something stronger than lemonade. My friend Hays came here because his railway is coming here, willy-nilly the Hon. Bill, and not because Bill brought him here to tell us that the brilliant particular case of the Laurier circus discovered Courtenay Bay."

Then It Happened



Claude, the ice-man, hummed a lively air as he tripped up to the fifth floor with a 150-pound cake of ice on his shoulder. Claude was merry at his work always.

Unfortunately, someone had dropped a slice of bacon on the fourth floor landing. Very careless of some one.

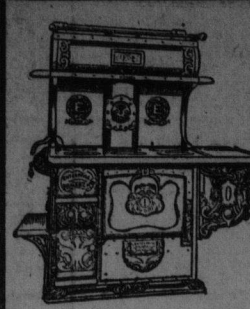
Note now how Claude stops upon the slippery, slippery bacon. Isn't it remarkable how fast some people can get down stairs? (The End.)

Temperance Federation.

The regular monthly meeting of the St. John branch of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation was held last evening in the W.C.T.U. rooms, Germain street, with E. N. Stockford, president of the branch, in the chair. It was decided to unite with the young people's societies of the city churches in the holding of mid-week temperance meetings. A programme will be drawn at a later date. Aside from this the business transacted was of a routine nature.

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Ostrich plumes are more plentiful in millinery, but it is the shorter ones that are most fashionable.
Overdresses of sheer fabrics are popular for afternoon and evening gowns.
Sleeves seem to have definitely decided to remain short on dressy waists.

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But bulk of pro expect of PURI

expect lighter, "Mor

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TIGER

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A TIGER

MARRIED

Livingston-Nickerson—A the bride's parents, S October, 1910, Allen third son of the late Loblenki Earle, in his age.

Funeral on Friday, leav at 12 o'clock noon, sh P. R. train to Hampto Cougle.—At the Mrs. J. R. Bartlet Heights, on the 25th Cougle, in the 85th ye Service at the house of 3 p. m.; funeral at 3.3

DEATHS

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CLOSED

On Account of D. BOYANER, 38