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FOR ASSIGNED

FROM THE PEOPLE.

HE DENIES THE REPORT.

the Editor of THE NOR'-WESTER :-SIE :- There was a report in circulation figinated by an ill-disposed person to the fact that I had approached some of the andidates for the municipal election, sociting their influence, if elected, for one of the city offices.

Allow me here to state distinctly that ach is an untruth ...

There has never been a mention of anyto this ildisposed gentlemen-well, we can ardly class him as such—that what is ppermast in such a man's mind will find atterance by the mouth in reference to some other person.

Respectfully yours, C. P. MOORE.

Calgary, Dec. 6th, '84. THE MEN AND THEIR MONEY.

To the Editor of THE NOR'- WESTER.

Sig. -Just now large numbers of the men employed by the North American Construc-tion Company during the past summer have sturned and are returning east in sarge umbers. They have had a hard season this year. And the des're which numbers of them had to "see the Rockies" and hie in the mountains, quickly subsided after a brief experience of its realities. Owing to the constant rain during the summer months they have earned but little compared with what they otherwise might have done. This, for men who reside in those parts of the sideration—the influence of which must equally affect the community at large. The larly, and did not, their conduct was unquesmte of wages, too, was low when we take | tionably tyrannical and unjust into consideration the conditions under which they worked, the liability to sickness.

But if this were all the men had to comnurmurs arose both loud and deep.

number of them struck ; whilst many, diswhatever they could get. At Laggan, where amours that many men at the end of the mek had not been paid for other months. Then October went by without September he 15th November that the paymaster assed the first crossing of the Columbia, to py, not for the two preceding months, but oly for September. The inconvenionce, briety, and evil wrought by this irregusystem of payment cannot well be concaired. If the great body of the public are gorant of this state of things, if in the ef dissatisfaction and wrong felt by the

who collectively challenge our admisation if | so is this true of British Columbia. Take not respect. It must be remembered, too, that late action brought against the C. P.R., that many of these men have others dependfor recovery of wages, by some working mening on them-wives and helpless children for example. Major Dowling decided the aged parents, what not? who are looking to money was due them. The C. P. R. wished them for their monthly wages to keep them, to oppeal. Col. MacLeod decided that no in many cases, from starvation or worse. recognised procedure of eppeal existed here. No one can tell the inconvenience and hard-Consequently executions were not to issue ; ship which this non-payment of wages must and the force of justice ended by leaving have entailed on them. We can neither matters as they were. None but those who have had any dealings with the pay-office know the difficulty there is in getting past time-checks paid. It is a common thing to come across men up the line to whom the Company owes hun-

imagine nor describe the hopes and the disappointments, the sacrifices, the debt, and the moral slavery which the want of money too often brings. Many of the men, too, are foreigners, who know little or nothing of thing of the kind on my part. I might say | English, who cannot make their cases known, these men are constantly "getting left," as it. A few weeks ago, a man going East, to 21.101 S.L.1011 O.L O. the expression is, with re, and to their passes whom the Company owed five hundred and time-checks, whilst their ignorance of dellars, was forced to borrow money, to pay English frequently places them in a pecufor food, on his way back. Many like cases liarly helpless position. In short, this withare common. It is commonly supposed that holding the wages of the men is both diswhen a maa is discharged, he must be paid honest and cruel. When a man has earned off, but with the Company not so. If the his wages they should be paid him: The event happens in one of those lengthy nonmoney is his and no longer the Company's; paying intervals, he will be glibly told that and if not prid on demand, it certainly that they "are not paying discharges" and should be at regular and not irregular periods, he has to wait until they choose to send it and as far as possible punctually.. There to him. There is too much red tape about were various reports in circulation, more or the pay office to say the least of it. Transless plausible, with regard to the motives of actions with them are tended with an absurd the Company in thus withholding the men's and in many cases, absolutely unnecessary pay. It was reported the money was pur- amount of formality, which would be amusposely withheld for the sake of the interest | ing if it were not anneying. Another thing which very probably was accruing some- they are in the habit of doing, and one of where. Whilst others maintained it was to doubtful legality, is to deduct the B. C. poll hold the men down, in order to prevent a tax out of each man's pay, and to refuse to general exodus from the mountains. Later grant him a pass back East unless he shows still, another explanation was affoat, which it. No doubt this is a handy way of collectwe shall touch upon presently. But whether | ing it, and saves Sheriff Redgrave considertrue or false the Company have only them able trouble, but is it legal? We know selves to blame if these reports were affoat. cases where they have withheld doing this country having from four to five months of | If they had not ready capital, and could not with some men, just as with regard to pay, an arctic winter, with its consequent dearth | pay regularly, had they a right to employ while refusing to pay the money they are of employment is necessarily a serious con- the m n without giving them it distinctly to politic enough to pay a certain few. Much understand? If they could have paid regu-

Things might, indeed, have assumed a serious aspect for the sake of law and order and the great distance from other fields of at the end of the track, had not a new labor. During the summer months, indeed, feature of the case early presented itself. numbers of the more independent men Another straw would have broken the quitted the mountains in di-gust. They horse's back. Human nature is human complained that owing to the constant rain, nature, and when a man cannot obtain his they could not make more than a few dollars just demands by fair means he is tempted to resort to foul ones, especially when a tew dollars are beholden him and destitution, or sain of, little med be said which might not possibly none. It was towards the end of esurmised. But the case is otherwise, summer, as far as we can learn, that this The men have had real and just cause of new state of things became a fixture. It was complaint with regard to the way in which | first rumoured that although the money had they have been paid, and their treatment at | not arrived, it was still possible to get timethe hands of the pay-office. Pay-day is | checks cashed privately at the hands of Mr. apposed to be on the 15th of each month; Lukes-subject of course to a little reducbut judging from the course of events dur- | tion, whether this was true or not we do not ing the past season this would seem to be know. But a little later there was no deny. little better than an official fiction: On this | ing the general fact that time-checks were day Mr. Lukes, the paymaster, is supposed being cashed in the neighbourhood of the to proceed up the line, as far as the mark | pay-office. It was in September, and still continues, to pay off various camps. It may more so in October, when it again came be noted, that the men are not paid up to about that they were not paying for the last date, but only for the month of months pre- or the present monts, that this system blosvious to that in which the pay-day occurs, somed, and a great swoop on time-checks the Company thus holding, at the very least, was made. Men on their way East, who two or three weeks in han !. Had this been | innocently presented time-checks for these done, and the men paid with some pretence | months to be cashed, were of course told of regularity it would have been well, and | that they were not paying for these months, w would have grumbled at a little want of but it was hinted to them, or at least they unctuality; but when this outstripped a soon learned outside, that they might get easonable limit it is not surprising that them cashed elsewhere. And this the poor fellows were forced to do. For of coarse it For example, somewhere near the end of | was cheaper for them to sell them, even at June, the paymaster proceeded up to pay heavy discount, than to lie waiting there for

some of the men for May. Then July went | the money to arrive. There are two or by without the paymaster putting in an ap- three men at the 3rd siding, (where the pay pearance, greatly to the inconvenience of office now is) occupying minor positions, the men. I hose of them who applied for closely connected with the Con.pany, who their money for June were told that the buy up these time checks. They cash them "money had not arrived" or some similar for the men at varying rates, bargaining excuse, and subsequently, that June and with them for what they will take, but gen-July would be paid together. Time passed erally to the tune of from 15 to 25 per cent. on, and the third week in August found discount. It is easy to calcula e what intermeither June nor July paid for the laboring est money invested at this rate will yield thousands. By this time, with nearly three per annum, for these time-checks will be months pay owing them, the dissatisfaction | paid, certainly for them, in one or two among t the men became serious, and a large | months time. The question naturally arises, where does all the ready cash come fromgusted with this treatment, and distrustful enabling these men to dash them daily, for of the Company, quitted the mountains for periods like this? Even striking a low good. However, by the time things had average, both as to the number of the men, assumed this aspect, (towards the end of and the amount of their checks, this would August,) it was reported that money had in six weeks or two months amount to arrived, and the paymaster and his escort | verp considerable figure. It is not surprissatily proceeded up the line before matters | ing then, that current report credits the pay gone too far. It was time. The great office with loaning these men the money for majority of the men were hard up, and the purpose. Certainly some outside facts urally enough wanted their money. would seem to confirm it. For instance, hose of them who were leaving the country | earlier in the season, | several men, store were forced to sell their time-checks for keepers and others, thought to make a little money by buying up those time-checks. But the pay-office then was, you often came they soon gave st up. They found that across some poor fellow just arrived, hungry instead of gaining they lost money by it. and footsore, who had vainly hoped to get | They complained that they found the greatest paid before starting east-asking you to buy difficulty in in getting their time-checks haltime checks. Late in September the men | cashed at the hands of the pay office. So ere paid for August, though there were that outside the buyers at the 3rd siding most of the others have given it up in disgust. If the popular rumour be false, the curious sight is to be seen of two or three paid for; and we hear it was not until | private individuals occupying subordinate positions, virtually paying off the menwhen the powerful Company cannot! But while they thus hold the men's wages, because "they are not paying for" such and so a month (due), or because "the money has not arrived" it is needless to say that

locomotive engineers and those occupying similar positions do not suffer in this respect, but are paid punctually-for vary obvious they were comparitively speaking reasons. But they know there is no such lene it was none the less deep on that | necssity in the case of the men; and there is ent. It might have found voice in arts | much interest for the observer in watching would at once have caused public at- their behaviour towards them. Most of these ation to be turned to it. That it did not, men are ignorant and fettered by poverty readily redounds greatly to the credit of the majority. perhaps, are foreigners. They men. Taking them as a whole they are are too mixed a crowd for any union to exist and law-abiding. You can among them to demand their rights. Even that in their awkward but vigerous snppose they had the time, money, and intheir rugged and intelligent faces, clination to resort to law, what help would very fact that they consent to come into it give them, let us ask? For the working mountains to earn their living speaks man in the Rockies there is practically nch for their character. The idle, the speaking none. The Company are the leadken, the criminal, there are few of ling power in the land, and their and their to be found in their ranks—they would might is necessarily right, for no one car ot come this distance, tearing themselves tell where or how far, the combination of om their customary haunts to work hard interest may extend. The procedure of law their living in those mountain solitudes. is cumbersome, lengthy, expensive, and the Department of Secretary of State, strongly mixed set, but a body of men issue by no means certain. And much more

STEPHEN A

FISHIZG LYCKIE. HUOY HOR STTOUT OF CO. TOILET SOAPS.

DECOS VAD MEDICIAES. GO TO TROTTES FOR YOUR

TROTT'S

RAJLWAY.

TIME TABLE:

more might be soid with regard to the arbitrary doings of the pay office, but enough Going West. has been said to show that there is room for a n 18.30 Leave. Winniper much reform, if not enquiry, and that the Portage la Prairie majority of men have had serious cause of compaint, this season, with regard to their Branden Broads ew Reaina Mouse Jaw P.S -Sines writing the above we hear Swift Current that a partial stop has been put to the practice of buying time-checks-that those men Maple Creek Medicine Hat in the employ of the Company are not per- 11.45

TURING my shannes from town Mr. W B. Steele will attend to any business that may arise in connection with the office Mr. St e'e will be in town on Wednesday and Saturday, from 12 p.m. till 5 p m., and is Going East. authorized to receive payments and to conduct the necessary business in connection with the | \$6.20 Leave Winn pag Rat Portage - W. T. RAMSAY.

Arrivo 70 Leave Winniprg

Winnipe Train leaves for Maniton Mondays, Wed-

arriving at Stony Mountain at 10.30 a.m., and Stonewall at 10.35 a.m. Return same Stony Mountain at 2 p.m., arriving at Win-

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 4 p.m., arriving at West Selkirk at 5 40 p.m., and returning leaves West Selkirk Mordays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7.10 a.m. arriving at Winnipeg 8.50 a.m.

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NOTICE

Calgary, 22ud November, 1884.

SII

Calgary, Dec. 6th.

XMAS GOODS.



Outside Divisions of the Civil Service, is fixed for Thursday, the 18th December, 1884, and each class in each division is as follows:

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Secretary of State. Ottawa, 14th Nov., 1884.

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Port Arthur Leave 19.15 Going South.

nesdays, and Fridays only, returning next Train leaves Winnipeg f r Stonewall Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9.30 a.m., MORTIMER days, leaving Stonewall at 1.30 p.m., and

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all his estate and effects for the benefit of his creditors to Donald Fraser, of the City of Winnipeg, in the

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Per H. Bueggen,

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