

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XIII CHATHAM ONT., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1904

NO 250

Expansion Sale!

Silk Opportunities

Our stock of Silks is complete throughout. We buy Silks through our Syndicate, direct from the French makers, and offer you values equal and even better than any wholesale house. We invite comparison with any silk you may have purchased outside our store, and you will find better values with us every time. For Saturday and Monday we offer you these specials:—

Black Peau de Soie, fine bright finish, pure French dye, fully warranted for wear and appearance, correct for waists, dresses and shirtwaist suits, regular value \$1.25 a yard, Expansion Sale Price, special for Saturday and Monday is **98c**

New Shot Taffetas in the most exquisite color combinations, the very correct silk for waists and shirt waist suits, in shot shades of browns, greens and blues, regular value \$1.00 a yard, Expansion Sale Price, special for Saturday and Monday is **85c**

New Black Taffeta Silk, heavy gross grain effect, fine lustrous finish, recommended for appearance and durability, for waists and dresses, regular value \$1.00 a yard, Expansion Sale Price for Saturday and Monday is **74c**

Fancy Waist Silks in very pretty checks and stripes in such staple colorings as navy, sky, pink, old rose, helio, grey, etc., regular value \$1.00 and \$1.05 a yard, Expansion Sale Price is **73c**

Another Dress Goods Offering

9 pieces of new fall dress goods, in the new Hopsack weaves and Knop effects, in excellent shades of navy, brown, green, grey, etc., 42 in. wide, especially suitable for girls' school dresses and skirts, regular value 50c. and 60c. a yard; Expansion Sale prices for Saturday and Monday is **36c.**

\$1.00 Lace Collars for

85c. Lace Collars for

65c. Lace Collars for

Expansion Sale Wrapperette Offering

25 pieces of fine Canadian Wrapperettes, in good, staple, dark colors, and in designs suitable for waists and wrappers; Expansion Sale price special at **9c.**

Special Offering of Men's Socks

Men's fine, guaranteed pure wool and fast black cashmere socks, medium weight, close woven, serviceable, regular value 35c. a pair; Expansion Sale the new Hopsack weaves and Knop **25c.**

Special Opportunities in Carpets

A very sharp advance has taken place in the price of Tapestry Carpets. Not only were we well protected in our purchases before this advance was put on, but we are now offering you our stock at a discount on the old prices, making for you a very substantial saving on every yard of Tapestry Carpet you buy from us this season. English Tapestry Carpets, warranted to give satisfaction, in an immense range of new designs and colorings, with and without borders, some with stairs to match, suitable for parlors, dining rooms and bedrooms, on sale at these prices:—

We Measure Your Rooms, Make and Lay These Carpets Free of Extra Charge

65c. Tapestry Carpets for . . . **58c**
75c. " " " " " **65c**
85c. " " " " " **75c**

Expansion Sale. Very Special

On Saturday and Monday we offer you 20 Dozen of Boys' Pure Wool Worsted Hose, elastic rib, all sizes from 6½ to 9½, reg. value, 30c, your choice any size, 24c Pair

Ladies' Coats

The styles are most correct because we bought them in Germany after New York had decided what was to be "it." The values are more than right because we bought them through the syndicate at syndicate prices direct from the Berlin manufacturers, and have marked them at quick selling expansion sale prices. We have now a fine new show room for ladies' coats on our second floor. Lots of room for you to see the coats and plenty of light to give them close examination. We invite your inspection.

Dressmaking

Our new and second dress making department under the management of Miss Morrison is proving extremely successful. We make shirt waists, fancy waists, suits and fancy dresses at very moderate charges and guarantee satisfaction.

Skirts made for \$2.00 up.
Suits made for \$6.00 up.
Waists made for \$2.00 up.
Dresses made for \$6.00 up.

We invite a trial order. No materials made up unless purchased in the store.

Thomas Stone & Son

TAKES ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Matthew Wilson, K. C., Says That Reeve Purser Acted Solely Upon His Advice in Maintaining Silence.

Mr. Purser Reported George Stephens' Effort to Bribe Him to His Solicitor at Once—Wanted to Expose Him Forthwith.

At The Planet's request Mr. Matthew Wilson, K. C., gives the following written statement regarding what took place between him and Mr. Cornelius Purser, Reeve of Dover: "Had not my client requested it I would have made no statement in the matter. On two former occasions somewhat similar circumstances presented themselves to me when I was less experienced in my profession, and I was then in doubt as to what I should do in the face of my duty to the public on the one hand and my duty on the other hand to keep inviolable what comes to me in the secrecy of professional consultation. I then consulted two of the most eminent counsel in Canada, one a Reformer and one a Conservative—although politics has no effect upon a lawyer's duty—and the advice of both was not to mention the circumstances unless my client's interest should be in danger through non-disclosure."

"In this case Dover was my client and I told the Reeve that if application should be made to the Court to compel the Council to submit the by-law, or if the by-law should be submitted to the ratepayers, then I thought it his duty to tell first what took place—in the one event to the Court and in the other event to the ratepayers: but in the meantime I thought that no duty was cast upon him to do a thing which would be as unpleasant to him as to me, and that he had no intimation whatever that the Reeve intended to tell of the affair during the election contest and I was not consulted and I did not advise in any way as to his doing so."

"About a year ago Mr. Purser of the electric railway company could compel the Council to submit the by-law, and told me that the promoters offered to pay all expenses of doing so, but that he thought that the amount asked from the ratepayers was so outrageously large that he could not favor the by-law. I told him that I thought that the Council could not be forced to do so, but that at the same time if a proper petition was obtained it might be very doubtful if the Court would not order the Council to submit the by-law; and in view of that doubt I suggested that it might be submitted and the ratepayers could vote it down—if they saw fit—unless there was some reason to the contrary such as a fear that the by-law might be carried by corrupt means. "The Reeve replied that that was just it, and that one of the promoters, Mr. Geo. Stephens, had told him (the Reeve) after he showed his opposition to it that if he would submit the by-law it would be worth \$250 to him, and he (the Reeve) suggested that if the promoters would offer that to him, how could he be trusted to using only fair means if the by-law came before the people, because he thought that the amount asked (even as the sum named might be reduced) was so large that they would have a big bonus in addition to many thousands to spend in carrying the by-law. I felt the force of what Mr. Purser said and in consequence, I changed my attitude and advised him to refuse to submit the by-law and that under such circumstances no court would compel the council to pass it; and I also after some conversation told him that I thought that there was no necessity to create a sensation by making public what he had told to me."

"I TAKE THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REEVE'S SILENCE AT THAT TIME, just as I would have taken the entire responsibility for his speaking out if the promoters had attempted to fix the bonus upon the people of Dover. "I must add that in this hasty statement I am not mentioning all that was said or proceeding to give word for word the conversation, but from what I have said it will be seen that Mr. Purser is in no wise to blame for not previously making this most unpleasant affair public."

HE KNEW HE WAS SOOTON

"Saw a Scotchman the other day, looking at Victoria Ave., and admiring it," remarked John Northwood, Head Street. "He was a stranger to me but I'm sure he was from the land of the heather. I waved my hand and said 'Fine street since it was paved.' "Aye, mon, but it most have cost a heap," was all he vouchsafed to reply. Wasn't that a truly Scotch answer?"

"A MAN OF HONESTY AND HONOR," ---W. E. GUNDY ON REEVE PURSER

Liberal Speaker's Tribute to the Integrity of Dover's Reeve—Stephens Organ Wilfully Misrepresented His Words—His Tribute to Mr. Purser Maliciously Excluded From the Report—Nothing Now to Say of Alleged Roorback.

In view of the published statement of Mr. Matthew Wilson, K. C., assuming entire responsibility for Reeve Purser's course in maintaining silence in reference to his statement that George Stephens sought to bribe him to submit a corporation bonus by-law for \$75,000 to the people of Dover, Mr. Purser, in company with a Planet representative visited the offices of Wilson, Pike & Gundy, solicitors for Dover township, upon whose advice Mr. Purser acted, and interviewed Mr. W. E. Gundy in reference to the following alleged report of a speech by him, published in the Banner, the local Stephens' organ.

The text of the report, which appeared in the daily issue of Thursday last, is as follows:—

"MR. GUNDY'S ADDRESS."

"Mr. Gundy said in part, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it is a calamity that members of a township council should bring out a roorback just before the election. If Messrs. Purser and Boyer thought at the time that they were being bribed, do you not think that they would expose it immediately and not wait all this time? I believe that when it comes to a straight denial by Mr. Stephens and the promoters of the road, you gentlemen will not believe the story told by the opposition. Mr. Dunn told me that he went to the meeting to pay particular attention to everything that was done, and Mr. Stephens did not, at any time, call any person aside."

"When addressed from the platform at Pain Court, Mr. Purser was asked if he understood, at that time, that he was being bribed, and his answer instead of being a straightforward one, was, 'take it as you like.' Unfortunately The Planet, and other advisers are holding him in such a position that he can not easily clear himself."

Mr. Gundy, a popular and eloquent speaker, is an ardent Liberal and is among the best and most effective of the local political speakers.

Mr. Purser placed the foregoing report from the Stephens organ before Mr. Gundy and asked if it were an accurate statement of what he said.

Mr. Gundy said he would prefer not to say, but he was willing to tell Mr. Purser exactly what he had said, as he was sure he had cast no dishonorable reflections on Mr. Purser. He said he had never impugned the integrity or truthfulness of Mr. Purser. He had only alluded to the matter on two occasions and on both of these occasions he had referred

to Mr. Purser as a gentleman to be respected very highly. "My attitude has always been," declared Mr. Gundy, "that there must have been some unfortunate misunderstanding between you and Mr. Stephens."

"Not at all," was Mr. Purser's immediate response. "I will say," added Mr. Gundy, "that the latter paragraph alleging that I said you did not make a straightforward answer at Pain Court is not true. I did not say that. And the last statement concerning The Planet and other advisers is absolutely false."

When asked concerning the report of the Stephens organ that he had accused Mr. Purser of holding back his information to make a roorback of it, Mr. Gundy said he might have said something that could be construed that way, but at the time he did not know that Mr. Purser had consulted his partner immediately after the offer was made.

"Well, Mr. Gundy, what is your opinion now of Mr. Wilson's statement?" asked the reporter.

Mr. Gundy replied that he had nothing to say. He did not know these facts when he spoke at the meeting.

"I said at the meeting in question that I knew Mr. Purser to be a man of the highest respect and a man of honesty and honor," added Mr. Gundy.

"But it is not so reported in the Banner," Mr. Purser commented.

"No, but it should have been. I certainly said it," replied Mr. Gundy. "Then the report was neither a fair nor truthful resume of what you said?" he was asked.

"Now, Mr. Purser, we have been very friendly and I'm sure you don't want to put me in an unpleasant position," was Mr. Gundy's reply. "Of course it is your story to remember, a newspaper report by a political organ," he added smiling significantly.

"What I did say at the meeting," he said further, "was that The Planet newspaper and the Conservative managers were surely giving an interpretation to the words of Mr. Purser which he himself didn't understand them to bear."

"Not at all," commented Mr. Purser. "I gave the words of Mr. Stephens to the people of Dover just as he gave them to me, and there was no misunderstanding. I think you know me long enough to know that I am a man of my word and was only acting in the interests of the people of Dover."

Turning to The Planet representative Mr. Gundy said, "You can say for me that I have known Mr. Purser in a business way for two years and during my acquaintance with him I have learned to respect him very highly. I believe him to be a man of honesty and honor."

A MATTER OF PUBLIC DUTY

No more serious conditions have ever confronted the people of Kent County than those which now surround the candidature of George Stephens. They are asked to support a man as their parliamentary representative who stands publicly and definitely charged by two esteemed and representative farmers of Dover township with an effort to bribe them to submit a by-law to their people calling for a bonus of \$75,000 from the people of that township to a railroad corporation, of which he was the first-named charter-holder and the first-named provisional director.

What is the duty of our people in the matter, irrespective of a thought of politics? Have we not a right—an absolute right—to insist on this serious charge being straight-forwardly and squarely met and dealt with ere we are asked to give this man our endorsement at the polls?

Fortunately, this charge is entirely without the realm of politics. No stigma or responsibility attaches to our friends of the Liberal party, except in so far as thoughtless partisan enthusiasm might lead them to espouse the cause of the one whose conduct has been impugned. Is there any reason that they should be placed in this position? Have they not the right—and is it not a duty, too—to demand from the man who seeks to be their representative that he shall be proven a clean man and a worthy man? If he declines or fails to do this, they have yet time and opportunity to secure another candidate for whom they can vote with person-

al satisfaction, pride and honor.

Surely there is nothing so fatal to the high ideals of public life and statecraft as the thoughtless policy that has been suggested by a few over-zealous politicians. Have the people any right to overlook this serious matter and hasten to a discussion of the general political issues? Could there be any justification for a course that placed honor and integrity as a secondary consideration to mere questions of policy and power? There is not a thinking, honest man in Kent County—be he Liberal or Conservative—that believes so.

With petty and contemptible personalities we have no dealings. Such things should have no place in dignified and manly campaigning, but the public acts of a public man—especially if they affect the honor and good name of the community—should be thoroughly, honestly and carefully analysed ere he is permitted to apply for a renewal of public confidence.

What are the facts? Reeve Cornelius Purser and Councillor William Boyer, of Dover township, both holding long and honorable public records, have made a public charge that after a meeting of the railroad corporation representatives in November last George Stephens approached them individually with the assurance that it would be worth \$250 to each of them to submit the by-law granting the corporation \$75,000 from the people of Dover. Mr. Matthew Wilson, K. C., solicitor for the township of Dover, states that Reeve Purser visited him in his professional capacity the very next day and laid the seri-

ous proposition promptly before him, asking him what steps he better take to expose or deal with the corrupt offer. Mr. Wilson advised against making it public at the time in view of possible pending proceedings, and accepts the full responsibility for Mr. Purser's silence. Mr. Boyer was not so counselled, and a month later, at the township nominations in Dover, he publicly announced that he had received the offer from Mr. Stephens.

There was surely no political significance in Reeve Purser's prompt and private report to his solicitor a year ago; there was surely no political significance in Councillor Boyer's statement to his constituents last December. What possible object could these honorable men have in manufacturing a story of that kind?

Did Mr. Stephens hear of the charges preferred against him. "Yes," he said in answer to a reporter's query, "I heard of it." Then why did he not deny it then, why did he not issue a writ against Mr. Boyer then? Why is this righteous indignation and the issuing of these big high court writs delayed till now?

Mr. Purser spoke in the interests of his township, only when the proper time came. When George Stephens appealed for the suffrages of the people from whom it is alleged he had tried by improper means to get a bonus of \$75,000, then their Reeve believed it was his duty to them to speak out. He did not wait, as we fear many a political bomb-shell thrower would have done, until the last moment. At the very first meeting of the campaign in his township he made his brief, manly and clear statement of what he knew and left it with the people themselves.

George Stephens challenged him and his colleague, Mr. Boyer, to appear on the platform at his meeting at Pain Court and repeat his statement. He did so, and the result of that meeting is well known. The following night he travelled through his township to Big Point at Mr. Stephens' challenge and met the would-be member again. But Mr. Stephens refused to let him speak, although the people clamored for their Reeve. Was Mr. Stephens' action that night the action of a fearless and innocent man? Have Reeve Purser and Councillor Boyer any interests other than those of their township and the people they represent?

As to Mr. Stephens' so-called defence: The people will remember that he publicly promised over his signature a proof that would be "absolute and convincing." Was it? He produced an affidavit from Mayor McKeough, who says frankly he was never near the meeting in question and saw none of the parties interested at that time; from the Reeve and councillor of Chatham township, who left before the meeting was through; from two members of the Dover Council, who say he didn't approach them, but also that he didn't need to, because they were in favor of his by-law anyway, and from his fellow-directors and promoters, who say they didn't bear any corrupt proposition made.

Is this defence a definite, straightforward one or has it been framed to beloud the issue? It is for the people to say.

The matter is one that vitally affects the honor of the whole constituency—and cannot be allowed to rest. Mr. Stephens himself recognizes this. When he spoke in Tilbury on the 12th inst. he promised a complete refutation that would be absolute and convincing or he would not ask the people to vote for him. He said he wouldn't vote for a briber himself and he wouldn't ask the people of Kent to do so. Has Mr. Stephens redeemed that promise?

There are things more important than the discussion of mere politics, there are things more important to our people than that they be represented by a Liberal or by a Conservative. It is infinitely more important that a high standard of public morality, strict integrity and honorable dealing in all public affairs should be diligently and earnestly and emphatically maintained by the good people of Kent County.

WORTH READING

The "ads" of Geo. W. Sulman and G. W. Turzill, which always appear on page one of The Planet, are to be found to-day on page eight. These "ads" are always well worth reading and just at this season of the year they should not be overlooked.

Men's Cannon Soot Shoes. Box Call, Goodyear Welts, one of the best American makes. Price \$3.50, at Cowan's.