HOW FORMER GOVERNMENTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK SHAMEFULLY ABUSED TRUST REPOSED IN THEM

WHITEWASH AND BRUTE FORCE

The Methods of the Pugsley-Tweedie-Carvell Gang, By Which Honest Investigation Was Side-tracked And the Finances of the Province Plundered.

No Wonder the Boodlers and Grafters Were Hurled From Power by an Outraged Electorate --- Very Little Chance of Their Ever Coming Back.

In making his charges against Honourable James K. Flemming and Honourable H. F. McLeod, Mr. Dougal made it clear that he had no charge to make against any member of the present provincial government. He said, among other things, "I gladly exonerate from this charge the Honourable Messrs. Morrissy, Clarke, Wilson and Murray, as I have neither evidence nor suspicion against them."

Mr. Dugal's attention having been called to the fact that he had made no mention of the name of Dr. Landry, said that he was satisfied to have a Royal Commission, but said that he did not make any charge as to Honourable Dr. Landry, and further he declared that he had no charge or accusation to make or place before this House against Honourable Dr. Landry, provincial secretary.

No member of the persent government having been charged by Mr. Dugal in making his charges, and the Royal Commission having declared that there was not the slightest suspicion connecting members of the Honourable George J. Clarke's government with these charges, is it not ridiculous for opposition papers and speakers to attempt to connect members of the present administration with such charges?

If the government last session had followed the methods of the various local governments from Mr. Blair's down to the Pugsley regime, the Dugal charges, even so far as they affected Honourable Mr. Flemming, might have been disposed of in a manner that would not have made it necessary or desirable for Mr. Flemming to have resigned.

Beginning with Mr. Blair's government, and continuing under Messrs. Emmerson, Tweedie and Pugsley, the majority in the legislature ruled by brute force, and charges the most serious were either refused investigation altogether, or, if investigated, the inquiry was carried on in such a way as to defeat the ends of justice and prevent anything like a real facts getting to the country.

Supposing the methods of the "old gang" had been followed in the legislature last session, what would have happened? Forty-six out of the forty-eight members were supporters of the government, and any committee of investigation that might have been selected must necessarily have been largely government supporters. Then, with a partisan chairman, all evidence of a damaging nature could have been shut out and a report whitewashing the accused could have been presented to the legislature. And that is exactly what would have happened—if old methods and old ruilings of partisan chairmen had been adopted and followed.

In favoring the appointment of a Royal Commission, the government gave a guarantee to the public that Mr. Dugal's charges would be fairly and fully investigated; and no one, no matter how strongly he might be opposed to the present government, can but feel that the Royal Commission was a vast improvement on the farcical legislative investigation of former days.

Opposition newspapers and speakers are somewhat touchy when the past is recalled; and, even at the risk of disturbing their equilibrium, it may not be out of place to give some facts with respect to how serious charges were treated by the administrations in power for many years before the advent of the Hazen government in 1908.

When Honourable Mr. Blair was premier, Dr. Atkinson charged:

"Resolved, That M. C. Atkinson, a member of this House, having stated in his place that he is credibly informed and believes that he can establish, by satisfactory evidence, that in anticipation of the general provincial elections held in January last, an agreement or arrangement was entered into by Hon. Andrew G. Blair, atorney general and leader of the government, and one James D. Leary, and other persons interested in the making by, and procuring from the government to said J. D. Leary a contract for the construction of docks and harbor improvements in the city of St. John, whereby the said J. D. Leary, by himself and his agents or such other persons agreed to furnish a large sum of money to assist and aid the said Andrew G. Blair and his colleagues in securing their elections and the election of some of his supporters, in consideration that the provincial government would enter into and deliver to the said J. D. Leary, or in his name, a contract for the construction of certain dock and harbor improvements in the said city of St. John; that the said Hon. Andrew G. Blair, under the said arrangement, did by himself and his agents, receive from the said J. D. Leary and his agents a large sum of money, to wit; several thousands of dallars, to aid him and his supporters in the election at the said general election, on the understanding that the said J. D. Leary should receive the contract for said docks and works and the contract between the government and the said J. D. Leary for said docks and works, dated the 17th day of January last, was delivered to the said J. D. Leary's agent or some one or other person aforesaid alleged as interested in the said contract, upon such payment being made and in consideration thereof, and in connection therewith.

Therefore, resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed to inquire as to the allegations and facts aforesaid, and all the circumstances connected with the matters in question and into the negotiations and circumstances connected with the granting and delivery of said contract for docks and works to said J. D. Leary and his agents, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses under oath, agreeable to the provisions of the statute and act of assembly in such cases made and provided, and all other powers then thereunto enabling and with instructions to report in full the evidence taken before and all the proceedings of said committee."

After a good deal of discussion, Honourable Mr. Pugsley moved an amendment narrowing the charges down to apply only to the leader of the government.

Of that amendment, Dr. Stockton said: "The amendment moved by the Honourable Solicitor-General strictly confined the investigation to the charge against the Attorney-General, and to that alone. That was not the charge of the Honourable member from Carleton."

Despite the protests or Dr. Stockton and Mr. Hanington, this amendment was carried by a strict party vote.

Messrs. Mitchell, Phinney, Wilson, Atkinson and Hetherington were appointed an investigating committee.

Two days after their appointment the legislature then being in session, Mr. Wilson, the chairman of the committee, asked the House that the committee be relieved from attendance at the House, so that they might proceed with the investigation.

This request was so vigorously opposed by the opposition that the leader of the government was forced to move an adjournment of the House till the afternoon, so that the committee of inquiry might go on with its business.

Some idea of the hole-in-corner fashion in which the inquiry was conducted, and the attempt to railway the inquiry through, may be had from the following extract from the debates of that year:

"Mr. Hanington objected. He had given notice when the committee organized that he desired to put Mr. George Murphy on as the first witness. Mr. Murphy was not present, but Mr. Kelley was.

"Hon. Mr. Mitchell objected to Mr. Hanington referring to the proceedings of the committee.

"Mr. Speaker—I think both hon. members are out of order in referring to the proceedings of the committee.

"Mr. Hanington rose to speak again.

"Several members—Order, order.

"Mr. Hanington—You are not going to burk me with your calls of order. There is no great urgency why the investigation should be proceeded with this morning. The witness he had asked for, one he intended putting on first, had not yet arrived, and why should the investigation proceed before evening?

"Hon. Mr. Pugsley said if the committee had any representation to make to the house, they would do so in the usual and proper manner. The course of the leader of the opposition was most unfair.

"Mr. Hanington—I am not stating what the committee did, but what was understood by the committee.

"Hon. Mr. Mitchell—The hon. member is misrepresenting what took place.

"Mr. Hanington said the witnesses in the Adams case were kept waiting from day to day. What harm could be done in having this investigation commence this evening instead of now? It was not his fault that Mr. Murphy was not here at the present time.

"The speaker read rule 221, which states that no committee can sit while the house is in session without special leave from the house.

"Hon. Mr. Mitchell—I move that the committee be granted leave to sit.

"Dr. Stockton—That motion is clearly out of order. It cannot be made without two days' notice."

Mr Blair was whitewashed by a majority of the committee, one of whom was a member of the Government, another a relation by marriage of Mr. Blair's and the third a lumberman with respect to whose stumpage dues a very interesting story might be written.

The report of the minority committee, composed of Messrs. J. D. Phinney and Dr. M. C. Atkinson, among other things, said:

"We desire, however, to call attention to the fact that a considerable amount of evidence offered on the part of the prosecution, and which in our opinion was relevant and important to the inquiry, was excluded under the ruling of the majority of the committee, and that in consequence the investigation had not been as thorough and searching as in our opinion, in justice to all concerned, as should have been, and we have to express our regret that against the remonstrance of the undersigned such testimony was ruled out. We also regret to report that it is undoubtedly proved that the sum of $1,500 was sent from St. John by parties in sympathy with the government and who took a deep interest in the dock scheme in that city to aid in the election of the government ticket in York, on the eve of the general provincial election and immediately prior to the execution of the contract by the provincial government with Mr. Leary for the construction of the dock, and that such contribution, or a major part of it, was made with the knowledge and approval of the attorney general and solicitor general."

Of the attempt to have the committee meet while the legislature was in session, Mr. Hanington said: "The members of the Assembly had a right to be present at this inquiry, and, if this motion passed, they could not be present, having to attend to their duties in the House. This motion, therefore, virtually compels a secret inquiry. If the motion passed, he would be forced to begin at the wrong end of the inquiry instead of having the witness that he wanted to put first on the stand."

Two years later, the then opposition had serious charges to make against several members of the Government. They had not forgotten, however, how the ends of justice had been defeated with respect to the charges made by Dr. Atkinson, and they attempted to get an investigation through an independent tribunal—they asked for the appointment of a Royal Commission, just as was granted in the case of the Dugal charges. They embodied their charges in a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor, and, in the light of recent events, that memorial should make interesting reading. It is as follows:

"We, the undersigned, members of the House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, respectfully represent and submit to your honor that we are credibly informed and believe that it can be established by satisfactory evidence:

1. That at the instance of and upon the request of the Honorable Andrew G. Blair, then and now Attorney General and Leader of the Executive Government, the sum of two thousand dollars of lawful money was contributed and paid by the Northern and Western Railway Company, and by a gentleman interested in the said company as a stockholder and officer thereof, and in the contract for the said company's line of railway, for the construction of which a contract had theretofore been made, and was then existing between the government of the province, or Her Majesty the Queen and the said company towards the election fund to carry on and secure the election to the General Assembly of this province, the Government candidates for the City and City and County of St. John at the general election held in and for the said City and City and County in the year 1886, and that said contribution and payment was requested and required by the said Attorney General as a condition precedent to the issuing and delivering to or for the said company, of certain provincial bonds or debentures, then claimed by and for the said company as rightly due them under their said contract for the construction of their line of railway, and which bonds were, subsequently to the contribution of the said sum of two thousand dollars to the said election fund, issued to the said company, and the said bonds were improperly and corruptly withheld from the said company to enable or induce a payment or contribution to a fund to aid and assist in the election of a member of the government or government supporters at the said electin, or were unlawfully and corruptly issued to the said for such purpose.

2. That as a condition precedent or one of the conditions of the Provincial Government's entering into or agreeing to make a contract with the Central Railway Company for the construction of their line of railway under the act in such cases made and provided, and the government's agreeing to the assignment of said contract the said company or the syndicate or some one of them who sought to control, or controlled the rights or business of said company under its charter, was required to and did negotiate with the said Honorable Andrew G. Blair, then Attorney General and Premier of this province, to pay or give and did pay or give the Honorable Frederick P. Thompson, than a member of the Legislature, the sum of four thousand dollars or upwards of provincial bonds issued to the said company and a promissory note for the sum of four thousand dollars or upwards, and also other large sums of money to the friends of the said Attorney General Blair, and that said payment or the giving of bonds and notes therefor were a condition precedent to the signing of said contract or the agreeing to the assigning thereof by the government, and the said Attorney General got the benefit of a portion thereof.

3. That the Honorable Andrew G. Blair, then and still Attorney General of New Brunswick, by and through the medium of his personal friends, together with his presonal friends, became and were stockholders or the representatives of stock in the Central Railway Company to a large amount, for which the said Attorney General Blair and his said personal friends paid but little if any value, and the said Attorney General and his personal friends in connection with the making and entering into a contract between the government and the said company for the construction of their line of railway and the proceeding with the construction thereof, sold, or agreed to sell and assign said stock to a syndicate or genelemen interested in getting control of the said company and contract for a large sum of money, to-wit, the sum of twenty-four thousand dollars, for which they received cash, bonds and promissory notes, of which last mentioned sum the said Andrew G. Blair was paid or received a large part or share, and that when the maker of said notes refused to pay the notes given as part payment of said last mentioned sum, the said Andrew G. Blair and the government improperly and corruptly compelled the payment thereof, from the subsidies or proceeds of the subsidies issued or paid or agreed to be paid under the said contract, or from other funds of the said company, or of its contractors or others interested in the construction of the said railway and entitled to the said subsidies and such payment towards the liquidation of the amounts secured by said notes, which was made a condition precedent to the issuing of the said bonds or payment of said subsidies under said contract, or one of the conditions of the issuing and delivery and payment thereof.

4. That the Executive Government of New Brunswick improperly and corruptly withheld payment of subsidies to the Central Railway Company until the said Company, or its contractors, or those interested in earning and receiving said subsidies under the contract between the Government and said Company for the construction of their line of railway, paid the said Andrew G. Blair, or to or for his personal friends, at his request, large sums of money, and in which money said Andrew G. Blair was interested and got a part thereof.

5. That the said Central Railway Company, or those representing their interests and managing the earning and obtaining payment of the subsidies under their contract with the Provincial Government, were unlawfully and corruptly asked and compelled to pay and did pay the said Attorney General Blair and the Honorable William Pugsley, then and now Solicitor General, and Members of the Executive Government of the Province, large amounts as part of the arrangements for and to enable them to get payments of the said subsidies under their said contract, and the payment of the said subsidies were delayed until payment was made to or for the said Attorney General and Solicitor General, and other Members of the Executive, to aid them in their elections or the election of their supporters to the General Assembly.

6. That the said Central Railway Company and those representing their interests in managing the earning and obtaining the payment of the subsidies under their contract with the Provincial Government, were unlawfully and corruptly paid large sums of money, alleged and charged in the Public Accounts as paid as part of such subsidies, without any warrant and authority of law, and when the same were not due or earned by the said Company under their contract with the Government, and were so paid to enable the said Company, or the person or persons last aforesaid, to contribute to the election funds to secure the election of the Government, or some of them and their supporters, and with the understanding that such contribution should be made, and large contributions were made, to the said Attorney General, Solicitor General, and their friends under that arrangement.

7. That the members of the Executive Government, or some one or more of the present Members thereof, have from time to time while such Members, as a condition precedent to the payment of railway subsidies payable under contract entered into and then existing between the Government and divers Railway Companies for the construction of their railways respectively, in the Province, demanded and exacted on their behalf respectively, or some person or persons acting on their behalf respectively, a promise that a portion of such subsidies should be repaid to some Member of the Government or other person or persons, and portions of said subsidies were afterwards in pursuance of said promise, paid over to a Member or Members of the Government or such other persons, and were within the knowledge of the Government or some Member thereof, applied towards the election of Members to support the Government, or for other the purposes of the Government or its supporters.

8. That in the latter part of the year 1889, or in the beginning of the year 1890, a corrupt arrangement was made by or for the said Andrew G. Blair, or by or for others, then and still Members of Your Honor's Executive Council, by which James D. Leary was to receive a contract from the Government for the construction and for aid towards and a subsidy for construction of a dock or public works in the City of Saint John, upon the corrupt condition and understanding that he or his friends should contribute or agree to contribute to the funds for the election of the Government ticket in the City and City and County of Saint John and elsewhere at the general election held in the month of January in the year last aforesaid, or would arrange to pay or provide means to pay certain promissory notes floated to raise money for the said election funds, and the said James D. Leary, under said arrangement by himself or his friends, did contribute and agree to contribute to the said election fund, and did provide or agree to provie funds or means to pay or retire said notes floated to raise funds for the election of the Government candidates.

9. That a corrupt arrangemnt or agreement was, at or about the time of the opening of the Legislature in the year 1883, made between certain parties representing or acting for the then Opposition to the late Government of that day, and one of Your Honor's present Advisors, the Honorable Charles H. LaBillois, then a member of the House of Assembly representing the County of Restigouche, whereby the said Charles H. LaBillois was promised to be paid and agreed to receive and take, and was afterwards paid and received the sum of five hundred dollars for and in consideration of his support of the Opposition party in the Legislature then led by the Honorable Andrew G. Blair, the present Attorney General, and voting against the then Government on a vote of want of confidence, and that such arrangement and agreement with the said Charles H. LaBillois and payment to him was made by and with the knowledge and consent and approval of the said Honorable Andrew G. Blair and the Honorable Patrick G. Ryan, then and still Members of the House of Assembly, and at present Your Honor's Advisors, and others of the then Opposition of the House of Assembly led by the said Andrew G. Blair, and through the aid and influence of the vote of the said Charles H. LaBillois, as such Member of the Assembly, so corruptly obtained and given with the knowledge, concurrence and approval of the said Andrew G. Blair and Patrick G. Ryan and others of the then Opposition, the then Administration, led by the Honorable Daniel L. Hanington was defeated, and the present Premier, the said Andrew G. Blair, obtained his position as Leader of the Government and Attorney General. That the said Charles H. LaBillois, when so a Member of the Assembly, was subsequently, with a knowledge of the said Andrew G. Blair and Patrick G. Ryan, corruptly paid and received a further sum of money for continuing his support and to vote for the Government led by the said Andrew G. Blair.

10. That in connection with the policy and scheme for the reduction of the stumpage on logs and lumber, initiated and carried by Your Honor's present Advisors in the year 1890, and to secure the continuance of said policy and reduction of stumpage several of the Licensees of the Provincial lumber lands in and since that year, namely, the Hon. J. B. Snowball, William Richards, Timothy Lynch, and others of the Licensees, holding large tracts of Provincial lumber lands, with the knowledge and approval of the Hon. Lemuel J. Tweedie, Surveyor General, and Andrew G. Blair, Attorney General and William Pugsley, Solicitor General, and at their request respectively, illegally and corruptly agreed to and did advance large sums of money to aid and assist by bribery and otherwise, to secure the election of the members of the present Government, or one of them, and their supporters to the General Asembly of this Province, in the election of York, Westmorland and Kent Counties; and that the maintenance of the policy of the reduction of stumpage on logs and lumber, as the policy of the government, is the consideration for which the said Licensees have contributed and arranged and agreed to contribute money and aid to the election funds of Government candidates in the election.

11. That since the said Hon. Andrew G. Blair became leader of the Government and while as leader, large sums of public moneys and revenues of this Province were paid out and falsely charged in the public accounts as paid out for coach hire and other necessary contingencies and expenditure in the public service, whereas the same were not incurred or paid out for any public service, but for the private works and services of and for the said Hon. Andrew G. Blair and other Members of the Executive, and for the elcetion of Government supporters, and that such payments and false charges were made with the knowledge, consent and approval and at the request of the said Andrew G. Blair and others, then and now Members of the Executive Government.

12. That since the presnt Government were sworn into office in the year 1883, large sums of money of the revenue of this Province have, with the knowledge, consent and approval of the said Andrew G. Blair and other Members of his Government, been from time to time paid out and falsely charged in the Public Acounts as paid for the construction of bridges and other Public Works, whereas the same were not paid or expended for Public Works or services, but for the expenses of the election of the Members of the Government or its supporters, and that a part of the money charged in the Public Accounts as paid for the construction of the bridge over the river Saint John at Fredericton, the bridge over the Saint John river at Florenceville, the bridge over the Pettitcodiac river at Moncton, the bridge over the Memramcook river at Rockland, and the College bridge, the bridge over the Buctouche river at Buctouche Village, the bridge over the Cocagne river at Cocagne Village, and other bridges and Public Works, were not honestly and fairly paid out for the said works respectively, but were paid to or for the election fund or the election expenses to secure the election of the Government or its supporters and to keep the present Government in power.

13. That the whole or a considerable part of the money charged in the Public Accounts, as paid to the Temiscouata Railway Company for the construction of a line of railway in this province, was paid contrary to law and without lawful authority, and that to obtain payment thereof members of Your Honor's present Executive Council, either by themselves or through their personal friends, receieved and were paid considerable sums of money as an inducement or consideration for the payment of such sums or bonds for such subsidy.

14. That the sum of four hundred and thirty-seven dollars and seventy cents, charged in the Chief Commissioner's Report, page 17, of the year A.D. 1890, as paid to and expended by Joseph A. Balcom, a supervisor of roads under the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, for the cutting down of a hill, was not expended or paid for such work, or any other public work or service, but was improperly and corruptly paid to and appropriated by one of the supporters of the present government, then a member of the House of Assembly, or seeking re-election as such supporter, for his personal uses, or to aid him in the election of himself and other supporters of the government in the general election.

15. That the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, commission on which is charged in the account of George W. Brown, a supervisor, on page 115, Auditor General's Report, 1890, and charged as paid to Solomon McFarlane, in items of twenty-five dollars in special expenditures, Board of Works Report, 1890, page 178, and one hundred and eight dollars and ninety-six cents in Auditor General's Report in 1891, page 172, to Solomon McFarlane, were not paid out or expended in the public service, but were in whole or in part fraudulently and corruptly paid out to secure the election of the Honorable Andrew G. Blair and his supporters in the election of members of the General Assembly for York County.

16. That for and in consideration of the appointment by the government of the Honorable James I. Felows to a seat in the Legislative Council, the said James I. Fellows paid and contributed a large sum of money to some of the members of the government and their supporters to aid in the election of the said members of the government and their supporters to the General Assembly, and that such aid was arranged and understood as part of the arrangement for his appointment to the Legislative Council.

17. That the Attorney General and the Hon. P. G. Ryan, or one of them, for the purpose of procuring at the late election for the County of Kent, held for the election of a member of the House of Assembly, the vote and votes, aid and support of one William Warman and others to elect a supporter of the government in said county, corruptly agreed with the said William Warren to erect an unnecessary bridge across a gulch in Molus river, so called, in said county, at a cost of some hundreds of dollars, and the said William Warman and others in consequence there of gave his and their support and votes in aid of the government candidate, and the government in pursuance of said corrupt agreement have erected or are erecting or preparing to erect said bridge.

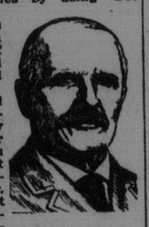
18. That a very large part of the sum of one hundred and fifty-two thousand seven hundred and forty-two dollars and ninety-five cents, stated and set out on page 35 and following pages of the report of the Chief Commissioner of Public Works for the year 1891, as payments by Board of Works on "Account of bridges under Act of Assembly Chapter 3, 54th Victoria," was not expended on or paid for works contemplated by said Act, but was expended and paid contrary to the terms and spirit and intention of said Act, and contrary to law and without lawful authority.

(Continued on page 6)

Operation Decided On As Only Means of Relief

But the Writer of This Letter Resolved to Try Dr. Chase's Ointment First and Was Cured.

This is not an isolated case, for we frequently hear from people who have been cured of piles by using Dr. Chase's Ointment after physicians had told them nothing short of an operation could bring relief and cure.



MR. BEAUVAIS.

If you could read these letters, coming as they do, day after day and year after year, you would realize what a wonderful curative agent Dr. Chase's Ointment really is. Few ailments are more annoying or more persistently torturing than piles, and when this suffering is promptly relieved by the application of Dr. Chase's Ointment there can be no doubt as to where credit is due. Friends and neighbors are told of the results and so the good word spreads, and Dr. Chase's Ointment is becoming known far and wide as the only actual cure for piles or hemorrhoids.

Mr. Charles Beauvais, a respected citizen of St. John's, Que., writes:—"For 14 years I suffered from chronic piles or hemorrhoids and considered my case very serious. I was treated by a well-known physician who could not help me, and my doctor decided on an operation as the only means of relief. However, I resolved to try Dr. Chase's Ointment first. The first box brought me great relief, and by the time I had used three boxes I was completely cured. This is why it gives me such great pleasure to recommend Dr. Chase's Ointment to everybody suffering from hemorrhoids as a preparation of the greatest value."

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