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No graft! No deals! The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose and the Maple Leaf forever. Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News ST. JOHN, N. B. APRIL 11, 1914.

INVESTIGATE—PROVE OR DISPROVE.

Rising in his place in the House of Assembly Monday Mr. L. A. Dugal gave formal notice of a resolution for Thursday in which he asks for a special committee of the House to investigate grave and startling charges against Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier and Minister of Lands and Mines.

The charges—the merits of which can only be determined by investigation in regular course—are, in brief, that Mr. Fleming, acting through William H. Berry, superintendent of scales, an employe in the Premier's department, Crown Lands, extorted from the chief lessees of crown timber limits a rake-off of some \$18 a square mile, amounting in round figures to \$100,000.

Mr. Dugal asks for a special committee of seven members, with power to summon all the necessary witnesses, compel the production of books and papers, provide counsel, and take any measures necessary to establish or refute the allegations which he has placed upon the records of the House.

On its face this is the most sensational incident in the political history of the province. If true, the charges indicate blackmail and robbery on a scale and after a fashion unparalleled in Canada. It will be thought at once that no sane man would prefer such charges without concrete evidence to support them. It must be assumed as a matter of course that the government, jealous of its honor and that of the Premier and province, will at once appoint the committee asked for, and immediately set about the business of probing the case to the bottom.

is established under the proper forms it would be a gross affront to the country to proceed with any further legislation. Should it be necessary to take a firm grip of the situation no doubt His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor would make it abundantly clear to his ministers that all legislative activities must be suspended until the investigating committee has summoned and examined the necessary witnesses and made its report.

MORE GRAVE CHARGES.

Following his demand for an investigation of his charges of blackmail in connection with the timber bonuses, Mr. Dugal Tuesday gave notice of a resolution calling for a second inquiry under oath with the Valley railway.

Thus, while Mr. Fleming was explaining Tuesday evening why he and his ministers propose to mortgage the province for another \$2,000,000 for this railway, there appeared on the records of the House the direct and specific statement of a member of the Assembly to the effect that the province had already been robbed in connection with that portion of the road now almost completed, and that he had reason to believe that members of the government had extorted money from the contractors.

These charges are either true or untrue. Their truth or falsity ought not to be difficult to establish. The contractors and their books are available. If these men were blackmailed they should have a chance to prove it. If the story is untrue the reputation of members of the government can speedily be cleared.

But this must be said: The government, in the face of the Crown Lands charges and the Valley railway charges, ought to suspend business until the air has been cleared by inquiry under oath. Interviews given by prominent men on both sides of politics yesterday were marked, almost without exception, by a demand that evidence be taken for and against these accusations before the Legislature proceeds with any such business as the guarantee of bonds to the tune of \$2,000,000 for the Valley railway.

There is no occasion or excuse for rushing the bond guarantee legislation. A week or a month hence will be soon enough to pass it—after it has been shown to be necessary, and after the government has met the Dugal charges—if it can meet them—and prove to the country that it is fit to carry on the business of the province. Mr. Dugal merely asks for a fair chance to substantiate his accusations under the rules of evidence. Who can deny him that chance? Who can deny him that chance and still enjoy the confidence of the people—to express it no more unpleasantly.

Let the Dugal charges be investigated freely and fairly. Let the House suspend business meantime. If the government should not show this reasonable regard for the decencies of public life the people of New Brunswick will expect Lieutenant-Governor Wood to refuse his assent to all further legislation and demand the resignation of his ministers.

THE PUBLIC'S VERDICT: INVESTIGATE NOW.

Certain information was placed before Lieutenant-Governor Wood Wednesday. It was of a grave character. Now that he knows personally on what grounds the Dugal charges were formulated there is every reason for thinking that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will take the course dictated by ripe judgment, prudence and integrity.

The government, after a long conference with its supporters Wednesday, made public an official statement that the most searching investigation of all the charges would be made. This should mean that the investigation will be held, and finished, before the House transacts any further business of importance.

Doubts it does mean that. Certainly public opinion is overwhelmingly opposed to any further legislation until the charges are disposed of. Let the investigation be free, fair, and thorough, and the people will be satisfied. It is doubtless unnecessary to say the public is confident that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will not permit the passage of the Valley railway bond guarantee until the air has been cleared. We trust the government is now persuaded that it would be folly, and worse, to proceed with that measure until the Premier and the government have met the grave accusations spread upon the records of the House.

opportunity for such an inquiry. The present session of the Legislature has already dragged out to sufficient length, but it will not be complete nor will the work of members be considered as finished until Hon. Mr. Fleming has answered personally or through the department with which he is connected the allegations made by Mr. Dugal. Short of this there must inevitably remain in the public mind a suspicion that all that should be done under the circumstances the duty of the Legislature is clear.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH INFORMATION AS THAT FOR WHICH MR. DUGAL ASKS.

And there need be no doubt that the allegations made by him will be fully and emphatically refuted. Comment on this should be unnecessary. It means that those directing the Conservative party here have said through the columns of The Standard that the Premier and his government must clear themselves before they transact further public business. It goes without saying that this statement would not have been made through The Standard under present circumstances unless it was felt that there was grave need for such an utterance.

The Globe, in an editorial on April 7, following the publication of Mr. Dugal's timber charges, expressed the hope that Mr. Fleming would be able to disprove the charges against him, and give him a strong certificate of character, but it went on to say:

"Friends and admirers of the Premier, and indeed of every honest man, hope he will be able to prove them false and to clear his name of any suspicion of wrongdoing. In connection with the Valley railway construction, the good name of the province as well as of the Premier is involved, and although the session has already been a long one it should not be adjourned until there has been a complete clearing up of these matters. What is whispered on the streets and in the homes is openly in the statement of Mr. Dugal, who fathers the charges, MAKES IMPERATIVE A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION WITH EXAMINATION UNDER OATH OF ALL THE PARTIES WHOSE NAMES ARE MENTIONED AS WELL AS OF ALL THE EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS WHO MAY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT. The people of New Brunswick have shown great interest in the case, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Fleming and his men will be able to make the most full and complete answer to charges and insinuations that suggest the confidence was misplaced."

JOSIAH WOOD.

"A truly good man, who is never so happy as when engaged in some scheme or enterprise for the general advancement of mankind"—from S. D. Scott's life of Josiah Wood.

Lieutenant-Governor Wood has passed the allotted span of three score and ten. He will complete his seventy-first year this month. A man of wealth, and an honored figure in public life and a conspicuous name in the Methodist church. He has, as one of his biographers expresses it, "been a manifold contributor to various charitable institutions in Westmorland, and has taken a warm interest in all improvements for the promotion of education, particularly higher education." When the sessional indemnity at Ottawa was increased, Mr. Wood opposed that measure, and refused to accept the increase. He is an advanced Imperialist, and he was one of Canada's representatives at the Coronation festivities in London in June, 1911.

What will this man do to-day? The eyes of the whole Dominion are upon him. It is a testing hour. Will the metal ring true?

THE "FORESHORE BILL."

Word was received from Fredericton Monday by Mayor Frink and others that the so-called "Foreshore Bill" had been withdrawn, killed, or otherwise disposed of. No doubt it is dead, and not a minute too soon.

The public would not tolerate legislation of that character, and its attitude would soon be made exceedingly plain to any government fathering such an impudent proposal. To seize the fore-shore rights of individuals and corporations in the manner proposed would be a legislative enormity—even in these days at Fredericton.

Now several questions arise. Who drew the bill? Who suggested it? Who led the government to adopt it? If the bill is dead post resurrection it is still fit to tell the public about its origin and the schemes and schemers it was intended to serve. The electors ought to know what sort of men they are sending to the Legislature. This is a good case in which to begin to find out.

THE BUDGET.

If the Borden government expects to satisfy the country by the trifling tariff changes announced by Hon. Mr. White on Monday it will quickly discover its mistake. Of course the government does not really believe that growing low tariff sentiment in Canada will be satisfied with the minor changes Mr. White has made, but the government is controlled by protectionist interests and these prevented it from making larger concessions to popular opinion. The result of the budget speech is to make the tariff more than ever conspicuous. It has been, and is going to be, the leading issue in Canadian politics. The government has satisfied nobody, and it will be asked in all quarters why, if the slight reduction of a duty on agricultural machinery is good, a greater reduction or the abolition of the duties would not be better.

The railroads and milling interests have been strong enough to prevent the removal of the duties on wheat and flour, yet the country at large is fully aware that the retention of these duties is not necessary to the continued prosperity of the railroads or of the flour mills. The courageous thing to do would be to remove the duties from farm implements and farm machinery, and allow the implement manufacturers to import their raw material duty free. To continue the duties on wheat and flour is merely to punish the consumer unfairly for the benefit of large interests to which his report.

the average Canadian has already contributed heavily through indirect taxation. These large interests have been fed long enough to render them self-supporting in the face of fair competition.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE ISSUE.

Finance Minister White has brought the tariff issue again to the fore. In spite of the "emergency," the navy, and the extravagance of the government, the tariff remains the liveliest of political issues. The increase of protection to manufacturers, the failure to give relief to farmers and consumers, and the spirit of complete subservience to the special interests, make a trace on the question of the tariff impossible. The issue is one on which the country is wide awake, and nothing can prevent it from being forced into the first place. It occupies the centre of the stage.

It is quite possible to show, and if the present commission considering the high cost of living were an impartial and competent one, it could easily be shown, first, that the pressure upon consumers is greater in Canada than in any other country, and second, that this pressure is due in large part to the arbitrary exercise of the power which the trusts have had conferred on them by the tariff over the common necessities of life. The various reports of the Department of Labor show an extraordinary rise in the average cost of necessities. The tariff, by favoring a gradual process of combination and consolidation as well as by the destruction of free competition, has encouraged monopoly prices. It has not only done so, but there is not a house-keeper from one side of the country to the other who has not been complaining in the case of most of the articles of common use, that she cannot buy, even at the present high prices, goods of the durability of those she bought a decade ago.

The budget speech of Mr. White shows that the Tory cabinet is running true to type. It is apparently intent on the interests of reaction. In spite of the many evidences that the working people are in revolt against the system, it further buttresses monopoly and extends protection. A quick remedy adopted against industrial depression, and this quick exact enormous fees. To continue taxing food is to continue something that it is impossible to defend. The people cannot much longer be duped by the quack, for the logic of the dear loaf is one which can be grasped by any intellect. They will demand untaxed food, and a general and substantial downward revision of the tariff. It is an irrepensible issue.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

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Watch Fredericton. It is supposed that \$600,000 or \$800,000 of the cost of the Georgetown-Centreville section has gone astray. Is the Legislature going to guarantee bonds for \$2,000,000 more before properly accounting for the vast sum already disposed of?

Colonel the Hon. Sam is going to bar drinks from all the drill halls, report has it. He might issue an order, but to enforce it is a cock of a different hackle. It recalls that little bit from Henry IV: Glen—I can call spirits from the vasty deep. Hot—Why, so can I, or so can any man. But will the come when you do call for them?

A Versaille Illinois Family. (Selling County Register.) D. H. Turner traded his farm for \$6,000 worth of property near the High School. Uncle Joe Endicott got the farm. They expect to move at once. We hate to see D. H. leave us, as he was a good neighbor and Christian man, blacksmith, carpenter, jeweller, farmer, miller, was postmaster ten years, and worked some in coal, but has not got his card. His wife is a splendid cook, milliner and dressmaker, and his daughter is a good musician.

ABE MARTIN

A little minced man added to the omelet makes a savory change.

TORIES ARRANGED

BUDGET DEBATE

Hon. A. K. MacLean Scores Them for Sacrificing the People for the "Interests" No Relief for the High Cost of Living in Tariff Changes—Charges Them with Gross Extravagance in Face of Waning Revenues—J. G. Turriff Scores Government for \$16,000,000 Gift to Mackenzie & Mann.

Ottawa, April 7.—The old struggle between progressive endeavor and conservative reaction, between protected privilege and the interests of the common people has developed in the budget debate.

The Liberal speakers gave the people's side of the case today. A. K. MacLean, in a thoughtful and telling speech, he spoke the Liberal determination to fight for improved economic conditions on the lines of free foodstuffs, free wheat and free agricultural implements, with a view to bettering the conditions and increasing the opportunities of the toilers in the factories and on the farm. He gave a complete and compelling review of the financial aspects of Mr. White's budget and the results of the dash-away and spend-the-money policy of the spendthrift heirs of the Fielding surplus.

He was supported vigorously by Mr. Turriff. The westerner had just returned to the house from the hospital and signalled his comeback by one of the most forceful speeches of his career.

On the other hand H. B. Ames, the Montreal manufacturer, was equally in earnest and plain spoken in championing the reactionary budget of Hon. Mr. White. The farmers and artisans must wait, was Mr. Ames' dictum. His substitute taxing duties must be considered first. Free food must be denied, because protection accorded the farmer must prevent him from objecting to protection to corporate industries. Free wheat was impossible because it would "throw the great milling industry overboard" and disadvantageously affect the railways.

Free agricultural implements were not considered in the matter. If the government had thought the small reduction made in two implements would have crippled the manufacturers in any way it would not have been granted. It was all refreshingly frank and sincere on both sides.

One unfortunate incident which went to mar somewhat the traditional courtesies of the chamber occurred shortly after 10 o'clock tonight, when at the conclusion of Mr. Ames' speech Mr. Turriff moved the adjournment. The debate until tomorrow, Premier Borden called for the Saskatchewan Liberal to "go on."

The Premier knows that his friend is not in good health, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "and that should be sufficient reason for granting his request." Mr. Borden replied that there were others who wanted to speak on the morrow.

"I should have thought," replied Sir Wilfrid, "that under the circumstances and at this hour of the night, knowing that my friend has just come from the hospital, there would have been no hesitation in the matter."

"I'll go on," put in Mr. Turriff, and go on he did.

Mr. Turriff went on, and to the discomfort of the government, as he passed pointed comments upon the assistance so generously given Mackenzie & Mann.

Hot Shot from Turriff.

"My hon. friend (Mr. Ames), he said, 'has argued that the late government spent too much on railway subsidies. If that be true, then how much worse was the action of this government in making the gift of \$16,000,000 to Mackenzie & Mann last year, a gift which would enable about \$12,000,000 to go into the Canadian Northern and \$4,000,000 into the pockets of Bill and Dan. The gift was not necessary, not necessary, because Mackenzie & Mann could put back into the treasury of the Canadian Northern \$16,000,000 they have taken from the British bondholders, from the provinces and from the former and the present government. Did Mackenzie & Mann do that? Oh, no. That's not their way. Instead the government made them a gift of \$16,000,000. Yes, the crime may be said, but we got \$7,000,000 of their common stock. I say they did not, for Mackenzie & Mann simply took the printing press and ran off certificates for \$7,000,000 for the government and another for \$7,000,000 to put into their own safe. There are reports this year of further government assistance for the same people this year, and I hope that, at least the minister of finance will go slow."

Senator Jones' "Floop."

The adjournment of the debate was moved by Mr. Carrall. The House then adjourned until Wednesday, April 15.

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C. P. R. DRIVER LOSES HIS LIFE AT

AT MATAWAMBEK (N.B.)

At Matawambek (N.B.) Tuesday, Frank Rowan, of Lincoln, Sunbury Co., a locomotive driver on the C. P. R., was killed, his head striking against a post when he was looking out of the cab window. He was taken to his home in Brownville, where he died. Mr. Rowan was forty-five years of age and leaves his wife and four children he was also survived by his mother, five brothers, one of whom is Arthur V. Rowan, manager of the St. John River Log, Drivng Co., and three sisters. He was part owner of the tug Onawans, which plies on the St. John river.