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(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

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(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

Mr. Ross Exposed; Is He Truthful?

Direct Misstatement of Fact Made By Him at Napanee—The Cruise of the Minnie M—Premier's Story Challenged.

Hon. C. W. Ross' efforts at Napanee on 26th of December to avoid responsibility for electoral corruption generally, and for the rascally character of the last "Soo" election, particularly, appeared even to the closest friends, as the strongest evidence of his guilt. When a man is charged before a jury with a crime—he sometimes elects to become a witness in his own behalf. He need not do so, and if he does not do so no comment can be made upon the fact that his lips remain sealed. Generally, it is when the case for the prosecution looks conclusive in itself that the prisoner endeavors to exculpate himself by his own statement. It has been said of a prisoner giving evidence thus, that to be successful he must be one of two things, viz., a first-class perverter of the truth, or innocent. His story is listened to critically. His life, at least his liberty, is at stake, and men know that man will fabricate to save either. If he is caught wandering from the "coloring" his story, or endeavoring to justify his offence by trying to blame others, the jury is quick to see that the texture of his story is thin, that it does not bear the "ring of truth," and the result is that his attempted explanation strengthens the belief in his guilt.

MR. ROSS IN A DILEMMA.

The good people of Napanee listened to Mr. Ross' fervid repudiation for Mr. Ross and his government, of any association with any of those concerned in the recent election crimes, especially those which disgraced the "Soo" riding during the last bye-election. Mr. Ross chose to go to the bar of public opinion and endeavor to explain away from himself and his government any and all connection with the crimes for which it is charged that he and his government should be held responsible. He failed, pitifully and miserably, his explanations were a feeble attempt to heap disgrace on others, and to elevate and extol his own virtue and high political parity. He did more than either deliberately misrepresent the facts as to the Minnie M. incident, distorting them to appear to support his feeble explanation, or, as Premier of this province, he made statements not knowing whether they were true or not, and he was charged to support his statements as to whether they were true or not. Mr. Ross must take one or the other of the two horns of the dilemma. He stated (and doubtless many who heard him believed it to be true) that the Minnie M. sailed on her famous "plugging" expedition to Michipicoten in the interests of C. N. Smith, the then, and now, Liberal candidate, from an American port, under an American captain, Mr. Galvin, and, therefore, notwithstanding the warning of the intended expedition, he said "the boat could not have been stopped by the Canadian authorities." He made no attempt to stop it, and when publicly warned in writing of the dastardly outrage which was to be committed, and required as Attorney-General to stop it, Hon. Mr. Gibson said he was "not a policeman." That was all. Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. Mr. Ross, then M. P. E., were on the platform at the "Soo" from which the letter of warning was read.

MISSTATED THE FACTS.

No one then pretended to say that the boat was chartered by an American and would sail from an American port. It would have been to have done so, because the Minister in his pocket, was a hall, and heard the warning read. Both were untrue, as Mr. Ross ought to know, as doesn't. The letter which Ross must have read and re-read, before the Napanee meeting, informed the Attorney-General that the vessel "now in this port" was being provisioned and prepared for the piratical cruise and would sail from the Canadian "Soo." Her captain was, and is, Arthur Batten, not Galvin, a British subject, living at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Did Mr. Ross intend to delude the people of Napanee into believing that the Minnie M. was a foreign vessel. It is clear he did, for, if a British ship, could not be captured by an American. When speaking at Napanee for months before it, Mr. Ross did know that the Minnie M. was a British ship, registered at the port of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and owned by the Algoma Central Steamship Company, for it was one of the assets of that company contemplated as part of the securities for the \$2,000,000 guarantee to the "Soo" companies last session. He also knew at the time he spoke in Napanee, and had known for months previous of it, that it was at all interested in the proceedings at the "Soo" election trial last September, that the captain of the Minnie M. was Arthur Batten (not Galvin), a Canadian, and resident of the Canadian "Soo." The ship was a British ship, in the Canadian "Soo," captained by a Canadian, present in the hall where the

warning was given to Hon. Mr. Gibson, yet Mr. Ross unblushingly tells the people of Napanee that the vessel could not be stopped legally. UNTRUTHFUL OR RECKLESS. It is time Mr. Ross was educated to facts, if he does not know them already. It is also time Ontario was choosing a premier who will be careful not to make statements in utter and reckless disregard as to whether they be true, in the effort to dodge responsibility which the people will compel him to assume. Mr. Ross, therefore, told the people of Napanee whether deliberately or recklessly—what was untrue of the most important facts concerning this outrage, and upon facts so stated invited his audience there to believe and accept his explanation. A sorry figure for the Premier of this province to cut! The spectacle of a man of self-assured probity and integrity, as Premier of the province, making a miserable plea for mercy upon distorted and misrepresented facts! Truly it shows a desperate state of affairs—one that the people of Ontario should bear in mind and strongly resent.

ONLY HALF THE TRUTH.

Then Mr. Ross told the audience of Napanee that Mr. Coyne, by whom he says the boat was chartered, was an American. So far true, but "half the truth makes the blackest lie." Why was Mr. Ross not candid? Did he not owe it to himself, his Government, and the people of this Province to be frank and honest in his public utterances and tell all he knew? Why did Mr. Ross not state, what he knew full well, that Mr. Coyne was at that time acting under the late Mr. Shields, then absent in New York, as general manager in charge at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company and Allied Companies, and that Mr. Coyne did not charter, but merely, as manager, directed or ordered the boat out for that trip, without reward to the companies he represented, and who owned the boat.

WHAT ONTARIO HAD TO PAY.

The reward came later when the bill to grant those companies \$2,000,000 by guarantee was brought into the Legislature the next session and carried through by the bare votes of the illegally and corruptly elected members for the Sault, Mr. C. N. Smith, who subsequently forfeited his seat, and by the partnership of Connors and Bowman, creditors of the Algoma Central Railway, to the extent of \$400,000, and voting the money with which to pay their debt. Mr. Ross knew Mr. Coyne, and he knew the Minnie M. and its captain's name and nationality, and many other little incidents which might enlighten the people of this Province on some important facts in connection with the cruise of that vessel. Mr. Ross might have mentioned that this Mr. Coyne, the acting general manager of the Lake Superior Companies at the time of the election in question, also directed the running of a special train from Michipicoten Harbor to Helen Mine for the accommodation of the "pluggers," and that Mr. Coyne was then resident at the "Soo," and that subsequently Mr. Coyne was reported by the election judges for his corrupt practices in the "Soo" election. Mr. Ross, perhaps, will not forget that if he had not, by calling the House to dodge the election protests, postponed the "Soo" as well as other election trials then fixed, the "Soo" guarantee bill had come to be debated the awkward and significant fact would have faced the Government during the debate on that bill that the manager of the companies to be aided by that bill had been, amongst others, reported for extensive corrupt practices, committing a dastardly crime, and acting manager of that company, and with the companies' men and plant, all to aid the election of the Government candidate. As some more light might thus have been thrown on the cruise of the Minnie M. But Mr. Ross is not without ability to "forget some things."

WANTED—A LAW AGAINST FRAUD.

And Mr. Ross says calmly that the personation was "grossly reprehensible," but, in effect, there was no law to stop it. It would appear rather a dangerous statement for the Premier of a law-abiding, peace-loving Province like Ontario to make; that a conspiracy can be hatched in Ontario, by the person in charge of the business of a large corporation doing business in Ontario, and others, to use the plant, vessels, and railways (the latter heavily subsidized by the Province) of the company in an attempt to carry a riding for the Government by personation, bribery, and corrupt practices on a shamelessly wholesale scale, and that there is no law to prevent it. Treating this as a sincere statement, then, perhaps it explains, or attempts to explain, all the carnival of election crime. There was no law to prevent it, and Mr. Ross knew it all the time. But, in an emergency, Mr. Ross can sometimes find "a law unto himself." Just before the "Soo" election he found a law by which he could pay out over a quarter of a million of

dollars of the people's money to pay the wages owing to the "Soo" companies, which those companies were then unable to pay, and after that election, and, as it proved, while the member for the "Soo" illegally held his seat, Mr. Ross and his colleagues made a law for the purpose of granting those same companies (which had rendered such signal service during the bye-election—vide "Soo" election trial evidence) further aid to the extent of two million dollars. When Mr. Ross was made aware of the decision of the Privy Council on the prohibition question, making it obligatory to him to fill his pledges solemnly given on that important subject, he made a law—a referendum law—by which to dodge, that issue and delude men who had trusted him.

Mr. Ross is resourceful, sometimes, but to judge him by his own statements at Napanee, he is powerless when fraud so great as to shock the conscience of this large Dominion are committed for the purpose of furthering the election of a supporter of his. If the Hon. Mr. Gibson, as Attorney-General, had been informed that the Minnie M. had been chartered on behalf of the Conservative candidate, does any sane man think he would have waived off responsibility by the statement, "I am not a policeman?" Mr. Ross might have been resourceful under those conditions, as resourceful and active as he was in paying the wages of the "Soo" companies just before the election, but as it is, or was, the dictum has gone forth from the Premier himself, "the Minnie M. could not have been stopped legally."

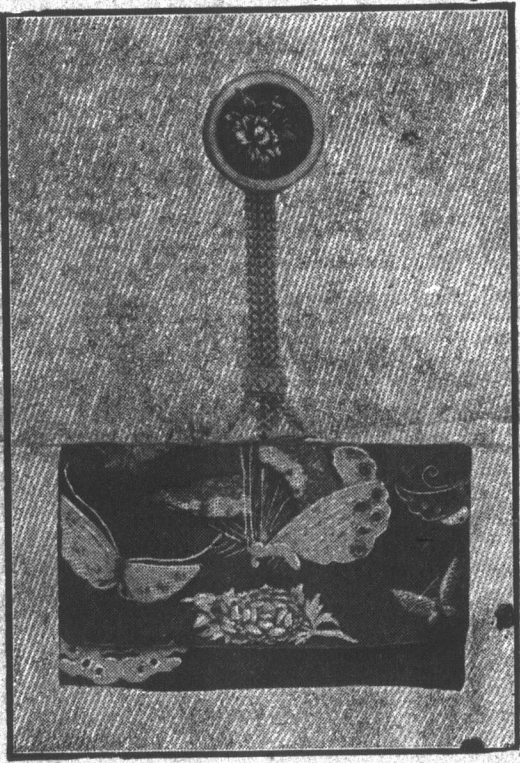
TIME TO MAKE GOOD LAWS.

In the face of the results, which the honorable gentleman admits are

fore his trial came on he had written Mr. Stratton, declining to be made a scapegoat, and asking that he be protected, and that, in response to his letter, Mr. R. A. Grant, solicitor of the Ontario Liberal Association, and a gentleman closely in the confidence of the Ross Government, came to him on a Sunday at the Michigan "Soo," and told him that he would be "looked after," and to keep away from the court. Could evidence more conclusive of the complicity of members of the Government be found? Of what avail, then, is it for Mr. Ross to endeavor to throw dust in the eyes of the people of Ontario by complacently shutting his eyes to sworn and uncontroverted facts, by perverting those facts, and by glibly saying that neither he nor the Liberal party were implicated in the gross frauds which were committed to promote the election of Mr. C. N. Smith, the Government candidate? Is it honest? Is it worthy of the man of integrity Mr. Ross professes to be?

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Ross further disclaimed any connection of the Liberal Association with the election crimes at the "Soo." Again he either wilfully or recklessly misstates incontrovertible facts. The election court found as a fact upon the evidence given that George M. Sutherland was the "manager" of the "Soo" campaign in the interests of Mr. Smith, and that the Minnie M. expedition, and the multitudinous other election crimes committed at that election, were committed by his direction or with his privity, connivance and knowledge, George M. Sutherland (Mr. Smith himself swore on oath) was sent to



A JAPANESE PORTEMONNAIE.

The struggles in the Far East continue to have a marked influence upon present day modes. Those who are pro-Japanese and otherwise can but admire the pretty designs that are being turned out from the Flowery Kingdom. The pocket book is of Japanese leather, very soft and pliable, embroidered with butterflies and mounted with dull gold.

reprehensible, perhaps it would be opportune for the people of Ontario to place in power men who will and make laws to prevent invasions of the electoral rights of Ontario citizens by low Michigan "toughs." If the Attorney-General, of the District Crown Attorney, Mr. Kahoon (who was in the hall and heard the warning letter read, and been told that a riot was threatened, or a drunken row was taking place, would they not have set the machinery of the law in motion and made some arrests? Mr. Ross did not tell the people of Napanee what was done by his Ministers, Hon. Mr. Gibson and Hon. Mr. Harcourt. As a matter of fact, nothing was done by them. But the evidence shows that through the night the son of the Chairman of that meeting was sent about the Minnie M. by George M. Sutherland (the general manager of the campaign, appointed by the candidate himself), and some changes were made in the plans, in consequence of the reading of the warning letter.

WHAT MR. ROSS FORGOT.

But to go further, why did Mr. Ross "forget" to tell his audience of the association of Mr. Stratton with the Minnie M. affair? It would only have been common honesty to have stated the whole facts, and then, if he could, have exonerated himself. He knew that when Galvin was prosecuted, not by the province, but by a private prosecutor, at his own expense, he (Galvin) made an affidavit, which was read in open court and filed, stating that Lack Kennedy, alias Ferguson (who personally conducted the expedition), came to him on the Michigan side from Mr. Stratton, with the message that Mr. Stratton knew he could rely upon him (Galvin) to do anything that might be required of him. Mr. Galvin knew Mr. Stratton, and had worked for him in his elections previously. Galvin also swore that be-

him just before the election, with a letter from James Vance, chief organizer of the Provincial Liberal Association, telling him (Smith) that Sutherland would "assist" him in his campaign, and thereupon, and without asking any question, and without knowing anything or asking ought of Sutherland antecedents, he, C. N. Smith, as Government candidate, placed Sutherland in full charge of the campaign, and thereby, as the Court found, was responsible for everything done by Sutherland. Now, Mr. Smith did not know Sutherland, did not send for him, (he swears), but Sutherland was sent to him by Vance direct from the headquarters of the Liberal Association, just as Lack Kennedy, alias Ferguson, was sent to Pat Galvin at the Michigan "Soo" by Hon. Mr. Stratton, and both these gentlemen, Messrs. Stratton and Vance, represented that the messengers they were sending could be relied upon to make themselves useful in the face of evidence so strong, showing direct complicity of Ministers and organizers with these crimes, will the people of Ontario allow themselves to be deluded by Mr. Ross' perversions of what are incontestable facts?

DENIALS CANNOT ALTER FACTS.

"Drawing a veiling across the scene" is no longer a method by which Ontario electors can be fooled. It has been done often and too brazenly and the eyes of the people are open. Let Mr. Ross stick to facts and face them, not try to distort them, and squirm and wiggle from meeting them. It bears a nasty look, and unpleasant and distasteful conclusions may be drawn from an attitude as unbecoming one as present, occupying the presumably honorable position of First Minister of the banner Province of Ontario. Hon. Mr. Gibson, Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Continued on Page 12.

The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From The Planet files, from Feb. 4, 1861, to Feb. 27, 1861.

R. M. Campbell is a Chatham confectioner.

Isaac Smith is the proprietor of the Kent Clothing Store.

W. & W. Eberts are proprietors of a large general store.

W. Richardson is a fashionable tailor in Northwood's row.

T. K. Wanless manages a boot and shoe store for James E. Crow.

Woods' Minstrels visit Chatham and put on a show in the Town Hall.

J. Graham purchases the livery business formerly owned by Lowry & Co.

Birth—At Morpeth, on the 9th inst., the wife of Thomas McCallum, of a son.

Samuel Cowan advertises his harness shop opposite the market, where it still stands.

F. A. Lafferty is the proprietor of a general provision store, groceries, boots and shoes, liquors, dress goods, etc.

Mr. Lott Patterson, of Harwich, presented the editor of The Planet with a choice selection of winter fruit.

A machine that will make 100,000 slate pencils in a day has been invented by a Hartford, Conn., mechanic.

William H. Nelson is the secretary of Wellington Lodge, No. 46, A. F. & A. M. They met in Rankin's building, King.

At Montreal they have had a snowshoe walking match, the winner walking five miles in a trifle short of 55 minutes.

Mr. Twiss, of London, opens up a branch crockery and glassware store in Chatham, corner of King and Fourth streets.

Henry Jackson, who kept a provision store on Wellington St., sent the editor of The Planet a splendid ham, as a present.

A party of Indians deliberately set an old Indian's throat, near San Joaquin, California, one day last month, because he was over 100 years old.

Girls who hire out in Detroit are given from \$1 to \$2 a week. William Doda, of Detroit, advertises in The Planet for girls to fill positions.

A meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Harwich was held in J. B. Sheldon's hotel, Blenheim. Jos. M. McMichael was the township clerk.

The French Government has recently purchased a small chalk drawing of the head of a child, by Leonardo da Vinci, for which the sum of 6,000 francs was paid.

William Mackintosh, the teacher of the Central School, was presented with an address by his pupils. The address was signed in behalf of the school by William Mitchell.

Married—At London, on the 7th inst., by Rev. L. Bessey, assisted by the Rev. J. Gerard, Thomas O'Neill, Esq., of Paris, C. W., to Teresa, fifth daughter of the late D. Campbell, Esq., of Dundas.

A missionary meeting was held in the U. P. Church—Mr. Walker's—and it was addressed by Rev. Messrs. Murray, of Princetown, Fletcher, of Carlyle, Clement, Rennie, McCall and Walker, of Chatham.

Thomas Field was stabbed under the arm twice by a couple of young men in the Township of Harwich. The row occurred over a horse and cutter. They had all been attending a singing school in Harwich.

Fire—An alarm of fire arose on Friday, in consequence of the parting of a stove-pipe in the residence of Mrs. Cooper, at the foot of King street. No material damage was done. The engines were out, but their services were not required.

Queen Victoria has been presented with four of the smallest horses in the world. They are entire horses of perfect symmetry, well matched, being all of a color, dark brown, and the highest of them is barely 31 inches. They are from Africa.

Cool—A package containing several copies of the New York Times was received at the office of that paper on Friday, bearing this inscription:—"Returned from Columbus, Georgia, where the proprietors would be hung were they to show their heads."

Among the curiosities of London life may be mentioned the appearance of Lord Cathness in the metropolis grinding his steam carriage. He is said to have driven through the most crowded parts without frightening the horses and threading the vehicles, thickly strewn as they are in the streets, with ease and elegance.

The following is a true copy of a notice posted on the Chatham bridge a few days ago. Evidently the "Schoolmaster is abroad." "Notice.—The undersigned begs leave to announce that a Stray Yearling, Two Years Old, mark in the right ear on her premises on Wellington Street near the free Church, the owner please to claim the said animal reward me for the same. Chatham January 28th 1861."

At a meeting of the Loyal Orange Lodge, County of Kent, the following persons were duly elected to office for the ensuing term:—Richard Houston, County Master. Geo. Gosnell, Deputy County Master. R. Stephenson, Secretary. James Houston, Treasurer. Thomas Lowes, Chaplain. William Wright, County Proxy. Joseph M. McMichael, Director of Ceremonies.

The census of the Town of Chatham in 1861 was—Northwood ward—1,562. Eberts ward—1,332. Chrysler ward—1,508. Total—4,402.

By the census of 1852 the population of Chatham stood 2,050. In nine years it has risen to 4,402, being an increase, within a fraction, of 111 per cent. We believe the census of the county will show upwards of 30,000. At the last census the population of Kent was 17,469.

J. H. Johnson, Esq., of Camden, has handed us the weight of five dressed hogs lately sold by Richard Stephenson, Esq., ex-Reeve of Zone. The weight of these hogs was as follows:—No. 1—367 pounds. No. 2—329 pounds. No. 3—335 pounds. No. 4—345 pounds. No. 5—343 pounds. Total—1,740 pounds. The sum realized was \$89.61. Pretty good for five hogs. Mr. Stephenson, however, it should be said, is one of the best stock raisers in the county. Certainly he deserves a premium from Kent.

ANTS THAT GROW MUSHROOMS

Prof. J. R. Ainsworth Davis gives the latest proofs of the ant's right to our apple. He says:—"In tropical America the traveller in their native region often sees thousands of ants marching in column of route, each holding in its powerful jaw a piece of green leaf about the size of a sixpence. These they take to their nests. The material is used as an elaborate sort of mushroom culture, requiring much more skill and intelligence than that in which human beings engage. The mushroom grower sets his spawn in the beds he prepares, but the ant does not need to do this. The desired spawn soon makes its appearance in the chewed leaf. But in its natural state it is indigestible, and must undergo careful treatment before it yields the mushroom which the ant desires. The necessary work is done by a special caste of gardeners ants. These weed out obnoxious germs, etc., and, pruning off the tips of the threads, prevent them from growing into the air and producing useless toadstools. As a result of this the threads swell into innumerable little rounded white thickensings, each of which is about one-fifth of an inch across. It is these which are the mushrooms. These curious bodies constitute the sole food of the ant—or, at any rate, the chief food."

FORCE OF HABIT.

The two friends had been telling stories of the sagacity shown by dogs. One of them had just finished what the other considered to be a greatly exaggerated yarn of a dog he had once owned. "That's nothing," spoke up the other. "When I was a boy there used to be a mongrel cur on our street that got so used to having the boys tie tin cans to his tail he would back up to every old can he saw lying around. It's a fact that one time, when the string by which we had tied a can to his tail broke, he came back to be retrained."

THE FAULT-FINDER.

He who seeks for a faultless brother will have to remain brotherless.—The Talmud.