MC2289

POOR DOCUMENT

PUGSLEY'S EXPOSURE OF BLACKMAILING CONSPIRACY IS CHEERED BY THOUSANDS

Mighty Demonstration Last Night Foretells a Liberal Victory---Minister of Public Works Shows How Mayes and Others Tried to Get Hush Money From Him---How Dr. Pugsley Defied Them and How They Sought Revenge A Scathing Reply to the Slanders---Pender, Logan and Marcil Get a Great Reception.

St. John is going to punish the Conservative party for the political conspiracy against Hon. William Pugsley and the Liberals.

St. John condemns attempts at blackmail and political assassination. It does not intend to permit the Conservative leaders to steal these constituencies by means of Mayes, the man who wanted $150,000 for a $100,000 dredge.

These truths were made clear last evening by one of the most remarkable political demonstrations in the history of the country, when, in the Opera House, and in the streets outside, wildly cheering thousands proclaimed Hon. William Pugsley the hero of the hour, and shouted out their determination to give him and his colleague, James Pender, tremendous majorities.

Never in the city's history was there so crushing an answer to slander and conspiracy as Hon. Mr. Pugsley's speech and the terrific demonstration which it drew from his fellow citizens.

The Minister of Public Works in a fighting speech, handled Mayes and his political backers without mercy. He took up the allegations in detail, showed their falsity and exposed the whole wretched conspiracy. The Opera House, big as it is, could not hold more than a third of those who clamored for admission.

No one who was there has any doubt today about the triumphant election of Pugsley and Pender.

As early as 7 o'clock the throngs of citizens commenced to gather in the Opera House and by 7.30 every seat in the auditorium was filled and a few odd chairs on the stage were so quickly taken that more room had to be provided. The drop curtain and scenery at the back of the stage were removed to make a larger space and benches were brought from the cellar. Even then the crowds could not find room enough and they continued to throng to every doorway. The aisles were filled, every inch of space along the walls was taken up and several rows of people stood along the front of the stage, occupy- the place used for the orchestra. The boxes were completely filled, the balcony and gallery were packed almost to suffocation, and the doorways, stairways, halls and passageways all the way out to the street were filled with an enthusiastic crowd.

When the minister of public works and the other speakers arrived, they had considerable difficulty in making their way to the stage, so dense was the crowd. Only a small portion of those who marched in the parade were able to gain admittance, the overflow extending up and down Union street on both sides of the entrance. Many after trying in vain to get inside, had to go away.

The following, among many others, occupied seats on the platform: Joseph Bullock, E. J. Armstrong, Geo. A. Knodell, D. J. Purdy, James Seeds, Henry Gallagher, F. J. Likely, S. C. Young, Hugh Campbell, G. L. Purdy, W. P. Dole, P. Donovan, W. Doherty, W. A. Lockhart, E. S. Ritchie, Ald. Elkin, P. Mahoney, Joshua Clawson, F. C. Smith, D. J. McLaughlin, J. A. Likely, George Craigie, Stanley Elkin, E. Sunderland, Fred. Barnhill, Walter Fleming, C. P. Clark, A. D. Barbour, Dr. Geo. A. Hetherington, Geo. L. Barbour, C. B. Allan, H. B. Schofield, R. N. Frith, J. S. Climo, Harold Climo, W. A. Porter, John H. Morrison, T. M. Burns, Roland Frith, W. H. Barnaby, J. Fraser Gregory, W. M. P. McLaughlin, Geo. B. Colwell, John Bond, Thomas Gorman, John Hargraves, Hon. L. P. Farris, Edward Lantalum, John Smith, Michael Mooney, Douglas McArthur, M. Coll, Joseph Finley, James A. Estey, C. K. Cameron, J. D. Seely, John W. Sharp, Dr. James Christie, Bowyer S. Smith, Stewart Fairweather, William Kee, Alexander Corbet, N. B. Smith, George Troop, Allan Rankine, F. B. Schofield, Timothy Donovan, Joshua Clawson, Rev. R. Mathers, Alex Macaulay, T. C. Burpee, Wm. Robson, J. H. McAvity, Rev. W. W. McMaster, Dr. Gorham, Dr. F. L. Kenny.

It was about 8 o'clock when the approach of the minister was heralded by a wave of cheering that commenced on the street and gradually swelled into the building, until a mighty roar greeted the popular leader as he appeared on the stage. The enthusiastic applause continued for several minutes and the chairman, J. Fraser Gregory, had to wait until it had subsided to announce the first speaker. As he called upon Dr. Pugsley, there was another burst of applause and the minister stood at the front of the stage for some moments while cheer after cheer arose from the audience.

Looking over this vast audience and the magnificent reception you have given me, said Dr. Pugsley, it seems as if the efforts of my opponents to kill me have not succeeded.

Another outburst of cheering followed.

With the people of the constituency at my back, the minister went on, I am content that you should record your opinion of their slanders on Oct. 26.

As our opponents, in pursuance of the policy which has been adopted all over Canada, of resorting to slanders and indulging in falsehoods of every description, have made a most deliberate and unjust attack upon me, I shall deal only with this matter tonight and shall leave the discussion of the dominion issues to my friends, Messrs. Marcil and Logan. Both of these gentlemen have a thorough knowledge of public affairs and will, I know, address you in a most interesting and elegant manner.

Mr. Marcil occupies the distinguished position of deputy speaker of the House of Commons; he enjoys the fortunate position of so far having no candidate opposed to him in his constituency, and he has been good enough to give us some of his valuable time. I am grateful to him for doing this because he is in great demand as a speaker and had already addressed a large number of meetings during the campaign.

Mr. Logan, you all know, is a prominent member of the dominion Parliament. His presence is also sought in many places, and I am equally thankful to him for consenting to come here for the purpose of addressing you.

For several weeks it has been stated that the Tory leaders were keeping in reserve for me a bombshell, which they intended to explode at the proper time, and I have had repeated intimations made to me that unless I satisfied the demands of Mr. Mayes by purchasing his dredge at an exorbitant price, he would make an exposure which would have a most damaging effect upon me and upon the Liberal party, it being even said to me that he had photographs prepared of a note which he had given me, and also of the cheque which he had given in payment of the note, as well as of payments which he had made to Mr. George McAvity in connection with his dredging contracts.

I have read in the Standard of this morning what purports to be a copy of a solemn declaration made by Mr. Mayes before Mr. W. H. Harrison, who, by the way, is the secretary of the Conservative association of this city, of which association I believe Alderman J. B. M. Baxter is the president.

That declaration was read by Hon. J. D. Hazen, the premier of the province, and therefore upon the leaders of the Conservative party must rest the responsibility for the course which Mr. Mayes has taken, and for whatever condemnation should attach to those who wilfully slander the character of public men, if I shall be able to show you that the statements contained in this declaration are slanderous, and also for the attempted blackmail tried upon me by Mr. Mayes, if I am able to convince you that there was an attempt at blackmail.

As reported in the Standard, Mr. Mayes in this declaration is made to say, and I now quote the exact words:—

"On October 15th, 1907, I received a telephone message from Dr. Pugsley, asking me to call and see him next day, which I did. He said, 'Mr. Mayes I am in need of money, and it would be nice if you could help me.' I said, 'Doctor, what for? You know that I have paid you some $1,300 in my second case against Connolly, which you have in a way offered to pay back, because you have said that Mr. Emmerson was so slow in bringing up the matter, and I have no funds. I am carrying a big load and am paying large amounts to the Bank of Montreal for overdraws.' Just then Mr. George McAvity came in and Dr. Pugsley said that Mr. Mayes' business was getting along so well that a little money would be very acceptable. I again stated that I was carrying a big back load and that I could not see why Dr. Pugsley should ask me for money. I said 'What do you want it for, a loan?' 'Well,' said Dr. Pugsley, 'you see it will be nice to have some one who could do something for you while in Ottawa, there was always something to be done and if I could not give him a cheque that I could give him a note for three or four months.' I asked him how much, and he said, 'Oh, about $2,500 or $3,000.' I said 'this is too much, but I suppose I will let you have a note for four months for $2,000. Dr. Pugsley then made the note out and I signed it. He said he felt sure that he would give me good return for it or pay it back.'"

Now, Mr. Chairman, in October, 1907, I was a minister of the crown. Mr. Mayes had a contract with my department for dredging, and if at that time I had asked him for money or received a note from him under the circumstances detailed in this paragraph of the declaration I would be unworthy of occupying a position in the government, and I am sure, and you may be sure, that no matter what might be my own feeling in regard to the subject the prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is the soul of honor, would not permit to remain in his cabinet for a single moment a minister who had accepted money from a contractor. Therefore you will see that the charge is one of a most serious character and one to which Mr. Hazen should not have given currency without the most careful inquiry and positive proof of the correctness of the statements, for which he made himself responsible.

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, when I tell you that the note which I received from Mr. Mayes, and which was the last note or money which I ever received from him, was given not in 1907, but in October, 1905, nearly two years before I became a member of parliament or minister of public works, you will be able to form some appreciation of the damnable character of the charge which was made against me and of the extremes to which our opponents will go in their effort to defeat me.

"I have talked with a number of people who were at the Conservative meeting last night and have been informed that not only did Mr. Hazen give the date of the note as October, 1907, but also made the statement that I received it while I was minister of public works.

"Late this afternoon, after the evening papers had been published containing my denial of the charges which Mr. Mayes made in his declaration and stating that I did not receive any note from him in October, 1907, but that the note to which he referred was given in 1905, I received a letter from Mr. Mayes as follows:—

"St. John, 13th October, 1908.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Esq.,
Minister of Public Works,
St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir:—I notice by this evening's papers that you comment on my affidavit stating that you obtained $2,000 from me on 16th Oct., 1907. The date should be 16th Oct., 1905, and the error is entirely a typographical one which I regret and have taken the proper steps to have corrected. I remain,

Yours, etc.,
G. S. MAYES."

"Now ladies and gentlemen, whether it is a fact that the original declaration made by Mr. Mayes states the year as 1905 or 1907, I have no knowledge, because although I sought today to obtain access to the original declaration I was unable to do so. It may be, however, that Mr. Mayes thought that I would not be able to recall the date of the note, which is not in my possession but presumably in his, and that it would make a most telling indictment against me if he could have it appear that the note was given to me after I became a minister. I am confirmed in having this suspicion from the fact that a short time ago Mr. C. J. Osman came to me and told me that Mr. Mayes had informed him that he had given me a note for $2,000, and Mr. Osman was under the impression that Mr. Mayes had told him it was given while I was a minister.

Then it appears from a statement which Mr. Percy W. Thomson made to Mr. John E. Moore, as I am informed by Mr. Moore, that he was also given to understand by Mr. Mayes that I had received the note after I became minister;; also from a statement which Mr. George McAvity says that Mr. F. W. Holt, C.E., who came to him on Mr. Mayes' behalf, made, that he also received the same information from Mr. Mayes.

Therefore it is difficult for me to come to any other conclusion than that the statement as contained in the Standard newspaper that the date was October 15, 1907 is the same date as contained in the original declaration. I am further confirmed in this view from the fact that it seems incredible that the printer in setting up the type should fall into an error so manifestly to my disadvantage, and so change the date from a time when it would be perfectly proper for me, as the solicitor and counsel for Mr. Mayes, to receive a payment from him on to a date after I became minister, and when it would be most improper for me to do so.

Then, too, if you consider the paragraph of the declaration which I have just read, you will see that it is drawn with the clear intention of conveying to the public mind that I was a minister at the time. Mr. Mayes says that I stated to him "You see it will be nice to have come one who could do something for you while in Ottawa," "that there was always something to be done."

If I were base enough, false enough, to my duty as a minister of the crown to accept money from a contractor these words would be entirely applicable, but they are not applicable to a note given two years before I became a member of parliament, at a time when I was a member of the provincial government and legislature and when I had not the slightest thought or expectation of becoming a member of parliament. This falsehood has gone abroad, it has been published undoubtedly all over Canada and no doubt in every newspaper in the land there will appear the statement that I, while minister of the crown, received the sum of $2,000 from a dredge contractor while my denial of false dealing will not reach all parts of the country, and no doubt Conservative speakers will be using this as a canvass against the government. Therefore you can see how impossible it is to repair the wrong which has been done me and the government of which I am a member.

I want now in the strongest manner possible to denounce Mr. Mayes and those who prepared the declaration for him, and Mr. Hazen, who read the declaration at the meeting last night, as men unworthy to move in decent society and among honorable men.

Now what are the facts? In 1905, Mr. Mayes, who solicitor and counsel I had been for a number of years, having been engaged by him in very important professional work, came to me and stated that he was desirous of tendering for dredging in the harbor of St. John and asked my advice as to associating with him one or more business men of the city. Knowing Mr. George McAvity as a prominent business man I suggested that he should see him and perhaps he would become associated with him in the undertaking. From that time on until quite recently, although I knew that Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity were associated together in the dredging work I had no knowledge of what was the arrangement between them.

From time to time, and indeed very often Mr. Mayes advised with me as his solicitor in regard to matters which arose in connection with the work, but in the summer of 1907, when I became a member of parliament and minister, I ceased the practice of law and from that time on I never acted in any way for Mr. Mayes. He retained other counsel and the relationship which had for so many years existed between us in the capacity of solicitor and client ceased altogether.

As minister of public works I have been called upon to deal with the subject of Mr. Mayes' contracts and the record will show that I have treated him in all respects as I would treat any other contractor who was entitled to fair consideration and nothing more.

Let me call your attention to a letter written on the 23rd November, 1907, by Mr. Mayes to me, which is as follows:—

Hon. Wm. Pugsley,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to call your attention to the fact that I have not been paid for any work for the last three months. This is entirely due to the appropriation having been exhausted and does not reflect upon anybody. Notwithstanding this, at your request, I have prosecuted this work under my contract just as diligently as if I were receiving the money regularly. I am sure you can understand what a burden this has imposed upon me when you consider the extreme difficulty of getting money from our banks for any purposes. I have a large overdraft for which I am paying a heavy rate of interest. Had I so chosen, I could under the terms of my contract, have stopped work altogether and thereby practically stopped my expenditure but the result would have been that the work would not have been advanced to an extent necessary to provide for the opening of the winter port season which it practically is today. Under these circumstances I would suggest that you should cancel my old contract from the date of the last payment under it and substitute a new contract embodying all the work which remained unperformed at that date together with the work since awarded to me and which has recently been surveyed by Messrs. Valiquet and Holt, this work to be at the same schedule as paid to the Dominion Dredging Company, for similar, though in many instances, not so difficult work as we have had the section which contains nearly all the boulders in that vicinity entailing serious breakage and great expense and loss. Besides this, you will find upon inquiry, that before I entered upon my first contract a great portion of the high water work which belonged to it had been removed by the local government dredges. Consequently I have always had an undue proportion of low water work which has added very materially to the difficulties of my work.

Trusting that this request may receive your most favorable consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
G. S. MAYES.

To which I replied on the 16th of December, 1907, as follows:—

Dear Sir:—I have had under careful consideration your letter of the 23rd ult., asking to be relieved of your contract of the 30th September, 1905, and after consulting with the chief engineer of my department and examining the contract and specifications very carefully, I have come to the conclusion that it will not be possible to comply with your request, and I have therefore to ask that you will proceed as rapidly as possible and complete the work required under said contract.

I shall be glad to learn from you how soon you will be able to complete this work, I am,

Yours very truly,
WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

G. S. Mayes, Esq.,
St. John, N. B.

As further evidence of the fact that I was absolutely independent of Mr. Mayes and sought to guard in every way the public interest I will go back to October, 1907, when I received from Resident Engineer Scammell a telegram of that date as follows:—

Oct. 10, '07.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley,
Min. of Public Works,
Ottawa.

Mayes defies me in his work, absolutely refuses to dredge in accordance with instructions given in writing and also personally delivered. He stated that he had no power over him, have cancelled all his work until he shows his obediency, kindly wire as soon as possible. Have wired the chief engineer.

J. K. SCAMMELL.

In reply to which I wired Mr. Scammell on 12th October, 1907, the following instructions:—

Oct. 12, '07.

J. K. Scammell, C.E.,
St. John, N. B.

Your telegram received. Carry out instructions of Chief Engineer.

WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

Again on the 16th of May, 1908, I received from Mr. Mayes the following telegram:—

May 16, '08.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley,
Ottawa, Ont.

My dredge Beaver has been working nearly three years without being registered. Is there any necessity for registering next week for tendering other works, prefer not to.

G. S. MAYES.

To which I replied on the 18th of that month as follows:—

May 18, '08.

G. S. Mayes,
St. John, N. B.

Same condition is in all advertisements issued calling for dredging tenders, regret find it impossible to make exception in your case.

WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

Again in July, 1908, I received from Mr. Mayes a letter under date of 25th of that month as follows:

Hon. William Pugsley, Esq., M.P.,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa.

Dear Dr. Pugsley:

I wired you yesterday that my work was completed and now beg to confirm it by letter. So far as the removal of the core was concerned this was a great surprise to us all, including your engineers. The plan, dated 1st June last, showed dimensions which were also included in the specification, calling for the removal of 12,000 yards. It was rather surprising, therefore, when the removal of 3,000 yards completed the job. As it is very evident that another error has been made perhaps you will be good enough to point out some 9,000 yards for me to do elsewhere. I understand that the Railway Department want the berth at the Ballast wharf cleaned up. If so, I am ready and willing to do the work. I remain,

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) G. S. MAYES.

P.S.—May I call your attention again to the very large amount of money in hold backs on progress estimates which are now due to me on these accounts. Please have the payment made as soon as possible as I have use for the funds.

G. S. M.

Then came a telegram to me under date of 10th August, 1908, as follows:

Hon. Wm. Pugsley,
Ottawa.

Have kept crew on dredge awaiting possible word from you as to dredging ballast wharf berths. It can be done more satisfactory this time of year as place is badly exposed to fall and winter weather. Can you kindly arrange this now?

G. S. MAYES.

To which I replied on the same date as follows:

Aug. 10.

G. S. Mayes,
St. John, N.B.

Regret unable comply with your request.

WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

This correspondence taken from a mass of letters and telegrams, will convince, I think, any unprejudiced mind that I, as minister, did not act like a man who felt that he was under any obligation to Mr. Gershon S. Mayes, and I can cheerfully say with regard to him, as with regard to all other persons who have done business with my department, that I have always acted in what I thought to be in the interest of the public and not of any individual.

I now come to what is, I think, the most serious part of this business, and that is the deliberate attempt made by Mr. Mayes to blackmail me into purchasing his dredge and making a settlement of claims which he professed to have against the department.

In the month of May last, Mr. Mayes wrote me a letter which contained the following statement:

"I am also willing, if you see fit, to sell my dredge and scows to the government at a reasonable price. As a compensation for the opportunity of which I have been deprived as well as for the great and unforeseen difficulties which I have encountered in their removal, I suggest that you should pay me the second contract prices for rock, viz.: $19.80 per cubic yard instead of $5.60 and $8.60—those under the first contract."

To that letter I do not appear to have made any reply.

Later on both Mr. Mayes and Alderman Baxter, his solicitor, spoke to me on several occasions with regard to the purchasing of the dredge, and on more than one occasion Mr. Baxter informed me that unless Mr. Mayes could be satisfied in this way Mr. Mayes would take proceedings against Mr. McAvity which would bring out unpleasant disclosures.

I also learned by telephone and other means that Mr. Mayes and Mr. Baxter had endeavored to force the purchase of the dredge by enlisting the influence of my friend, Hon. C. J. Osman, and Mr. Percy W. Thomson and F. W. Holt, C.E. Mr. Mayes wanted $150,000 for his dredge, and if the government would pay that sum for it the whole matter, it was said, would be hushed up. He saw to it that information reached me that photographs had been obtained of his note and the checks, and he was good enough to say through Mr. Holt that if the purchase was made on his terms the photographs would be burned, and the suit against Mr. McAvity discontinued.

Later he came to see me personally. He talked in a gentle but threatening manner, and, referring to his relations with Mr. McAvity, suggested that the dredge should be bought. I told him that any claims he might have would be treated on their merits, and that I would be willing to purchase the dredge at a reasonable price. He suggested that the purchase should be made through an agent. I told him that my department was desirous of purchasing a dredge but that this could be done quite satisfactorily without the assistance of an agent, and, moreover, that this purchase, if made, would be completed at a price not greater than the actual value of the dredge.

As to the price, I, as head of the department, would be governed by the report of the general superintendent of dredging.

Mr. Mayes went on to intimate that $20,000 might be taken off the price for use in the campaign. I invited Mr. Mayes to open the door and walk out, which he did." (Cheers and laughter.)

Dr. Pugsley then read the following telegram which he had received from Mr. Baxter, and his own reply:

BAXTER'S TELEGRAM.

St. John, N. B., Sept. 30th, 1908.

Hon. William Pugsley,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa.

Client impatient at not receiving word from you or inspector. Quotes your purchase and payment for dredge Industry, by Order-in-Council, as sufficient precedent for buying his dredge with complete equipment ready for instant work at smaller price. Points out that fund for purchase is not exhausted or arrangement could be made similar British Columbia purchase. Advise act immediately and wire definite as client insists on prompt decision.

JOHN B. M. BAXTER.

DR. PUGSLEY'S REPLY.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 7, 1908.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your telegram of the 30th ult., in regard to dredge "Beaver," which was recently examined by the General Superintendent of Dredging. I regret to say that his estimate of the value of the spares is very much less than the estimate given by Mr. Mayes; and upon his report it would be impossible for me to recommend the purchase of the dredge at the price Mr. Mayes puts upon it.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) WILLIAM PUGSLEY.

J. B. M. Baxter, Esq.,
Barrister, Etc.,
St. John, N. B.,

Commenting on Mr. Baxter's telegram, Dr. Pugsley said, amid cheers, that, reading between the lines, it could be seen he plainly conveyed the intimation that unless the dredge was purchased Mr. Mayes would carry out his threat.

He went on to read a letter from M. G. Teed, K.C., and his answer to the communication, as follows:

MR. TEED'S LETTER.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 9th, 1908.

Hon. William Pugsley,
St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir:—I have been instructed by G. S. Mayes, Esq., to write you respecting an amount of $2,000.00 paid by him to or for you as he claims, without any consideration whatever, the same having been in the form of a note made by him in your favor in October, 1905, and paid by him at the bank in February following. I am instructed on his behalf to ask the return of these monies and to say that in case of failure to do so, proceedings will be taken in the Courts for the recovery of the same.

Please favor me with an immediate reply,

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) M. G. TEED.

DR. PUGSLEY'S REPLY.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 12th, 1908.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your valued favor of the 9th instant, in which you inform me that you have been instructed by Mr. G. S. Mayes to ask for a return of $2,000, being the amount of the promissory note which he gave me in October, 1905, and which was paid by him in February, 1906, upon the ground that payment was made without consideration.

I need not point out to you how strange it is that a man of the business experience and intelligence of Mr. Mayes should, if he had any claim for this amount, allow it to stand for the period of two years and eight months without making any claim, as your letter is the first intimation which I have had that Mr. Mayes contends that the note was given without consideration.

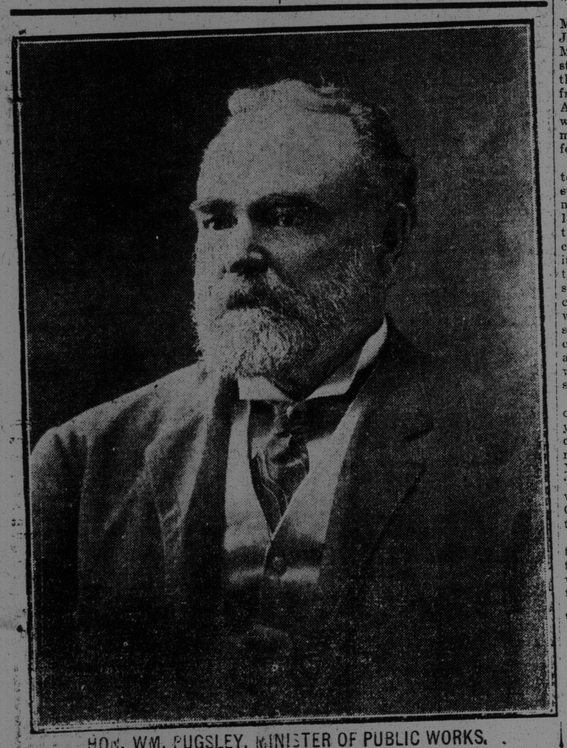
I was at that time solicitor and counsel for Mr. Mayes and had been his legal adviser for a number of years. He was indebted to me in a large amount for counsel fees in connection with the suit between him and Mr. Connolly, also in connection with the claim which I was pressing for him against the Department of Railways arising out of the construction of the Long Wharf, and also for legal services which I performed in connection with a contract which he had obtained for dredging in St. John Harbor.

The note was given to me for my professional services and for no other consideration whatever. Mr. Mayes, no doubt expected that, as his solicitor, would continue to advise him in respect to various matters which might arise until the completion of his contract.

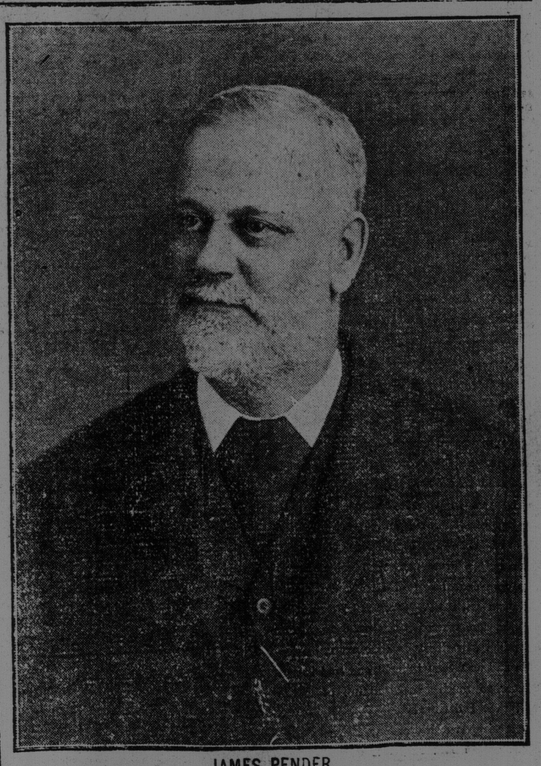
You will bear in mind that the note was given over two years before I became minister of public works, at which time I ceased the practice of law and therefore was unable any longer to act as counsel for Mr. Mayes or to give him any advice or assistance in connection with the contract. My own view is that in the numberless consultations which Mr. Mayes had with me before that time, and the various services which I performed, he received ample consideration for the note apart altogether from the amount which he was owing me for services rendered to him in the other matters to which I have referred. After you have had experience as counsel for Mr. Mayes I think you will come to the conclusion that you will well earn every dollar which he will pay.

I am unable to see upon what ground your client contends that there was a failure of consideration, but I may say that at different times in conversations which I have had with him since I became minister I have felt that he thought I was under some obligation to him and should have shown him favors, which I could not properly do consistently with the duty I owe to the public. I have, as minister, endeavored to treat him justly, but have accorded him no treatment different from that which I would have given to one who was a perfect stranger.

(Continued on Page 7.)



HON. WM. PUGSLEY, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.



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