

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21st, 1902. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY JAMES MCISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

The Customs Collectorship.

The Canada Gazette of the 17th inst., just to hand, shows that the appointment of Walter E. Robertson, Esq., of Charlottetown, to the Collectorship of Customs of this Province was gazetted on April 1st. The appointment of Mr. Robertson necessitated the superannuation of his predecessor in office, James Currie Esq. Now, the Civil Service Superannuation Act lays down certain conditions requisite for the retirement of a civil servant. Section 5 of the Act says that "The superannuation of every civil servant shall be preceded by an inquiry by the Treasury Board—(a) Whether the person it is proposed to superannuate is eligible within the meaning of this Act; and—(b) Whether his superannuation will result in benefit to the service, and is therefore in the public interest; or—(c) whether it has become necessary in consequence of his mental or physical infirmity. Sub section 2, of sec. 5 says: "No civil servant shall be superannuated unless the Treasury Board reports that he is eligible within the meaning of this Act, and that such superannuation will be in the public interest."

That the superannuation of Mr. Currie and the appointment of Mr. Robertson were not in accordance with the requirements of the Act, just referred to, may be learned from a perusal of the House of Commons Debates of April 16th. On page 3018 of the Hansard of that date we find the following:—

Mr. HACKETT.—Was Mr. James Currie, formerly collector of customs at Charlottetown retired from the service, and if so, why? Were any charges brought against him?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.—I think that he was superannuated and a successor appointed.

Mr. HACKETT.—How old was he?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.—I have not the civil service list, but he must have been between 60 and 70. Perhaps the hon. gentleman knows his age.

Mr. HACKETT.—Would the hon. minister state upon whose recommendation he was retired?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.—I did not expect to be asked for the details and have not got the information here, but I will bring it to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. HACKETT.—I am very pleased to hear that the minister will bring the information. I know Mr. Currie. He is a man of middle age, in splendid vigor and quite as competent for the duties of the office as ever he was.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.—How old is he?

Mr. HACKETT.—A little over 60, and but very few years older than the man who was appointed in his place.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).—The successor is generally older.

Mr. HACKETT.—In this case he is younger but only by very few years. I have known Mr. Currie since he has been in the public service, and I know that a better, more faithful and more efficient officer could not be had, and he is quite as capable today as he was 20 years ago.

Mr. CLANCY.—Why was he retired?

Mr. HACKETT.—To make place for a party healer—a man who supported the government and for whom no place could be found unless somebody else's head were rolled into the basket. I have nothing to say about his successor, but he is not much younger than Mr. Currie. Mr. Currie must have been superannuated on the recommendation or report of one of the officials of the department. Mr. McLaren is the inspector of customs for the lower provinces and I would like to know if he reported that Mr. Currie should be superannuated on account of age.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.—I will find out and let the hon. gentleman know.

A little further on in the same debate Mr. Hackett takes up the subject again and is thus reported on page 3026:—

Mr. HACKETT.—Referring to the matter we were discussing a moment ago in regard to the collector at Charlottetown the hon. minister said that he had not the civil list and that he could not tell the age of that gentleman. I have taken the pains to send

for the civil list and I find that James Currie was born on the 7th January, 1835, which would make him 67 years of age. He was appointed to his position on the 10th May, 1880, so that he was 22 years in the service. Of course he was capable of being superannuated. I find also that Mr. William A. Lockhart was appointed collector of customs at the port of St. John, a very important port, on the 7th May, 1900, and that he was born on the 11th March, 1835, being just the same age as Mr. Currie when he was appointed to that position. Mr. Currie has been superannuated because of old age and Mr. Lockhart who is of the same age was appointed two years ago as collector of customs at the port of St. John. I consider that scarcely fair. Mr. Currie belonged to that race of men, who at 60 or 70 years of age, are active and vigorous as may be instanced by our good friend from Victoria, N. S., (Mr. Ross) who is 80 years of age and who is active and vigorous still. I say it is entirely wrong for this man to be superannuated at the age of 67 when you appointed a man two years ago at the port of St. John of the same age, and especially when you superannuated Mr. Currie, not because of old age, but because you desired to find a place for an importunate partisan.

From this it will be seen that the Government could not have considered Mr. Currie's age a sufficient reason for superannuating him, inasmuch as they quite recently appointed Mr. Lockhart, a man of the same age, collector at the port of St. John, N. B. Further there is no evidence that an inquiry was held by the Treasury Board or that Mr. Currie was not as competent as he ever was for discharging the duties of Collector. In view of these facts the question will naturally arise: is it in the public interest to increase the public expenditure by superannuating a public official quite capable of discharging his duties and appointing another in his stead? We have no fault to find with Mr. Robertson, but the principle upon which his appointment was made seems to be directly contrary to the spirit if not the letter of the Civil Service Superannuation Act. Is it the wish of our Liberal friends that when a change of government takes place a similar line of action will be pursued by the Conservatives?

It will be remembered that on a certain Sunday last autumn, steamers made special trips between this Province and the mainland and special trains were run over the P. E. Island Railway for the accommodation of one Dr. Seward Webb and other alleged railway magnates of New York, who were represented to be largely interested in railway projects in Nova Scotia, Quebec and other parts of Canada. Mr. Donald Farquharson was Premier of this Province at that time, and he interested himself very much in making matters agreeable for Dr. Webb and his friends. A great sabbatarian, he thought it was quite proper that the peace of the Lords Day should be broken for the special benefit of Webb and his friends. The Government had carriages ready for Webb and company when they arrived here, and afforded them every facility for visiting in a brief space all the points of interest. Afterwards the Premier and some of his associates accompanied the visitors by special train to Summerside and saw them safely embarked for the mainland. All this desecration of the Sunday was considered quite the thing by Mr. Farquharson and his friends considering the magnates they were entertaining. The sequel of the whole business is that Dr. Webb and his associates were a pack of frauds. They managed to filch hundreds of thousands of dollars from bankers, brokers and men in all walks of life in New York for stocks that had no existence. Webb has retired to Vermont and Meyer his chief accomplice is under arrest. But what is the good of that; the people whom they robbed will never get anything. The facility with which they duped Farquharson and company must have been a fruitful source of amusement to Dr. Webb and his accomplices.

The peculiar methods employed by the Liberal Dominion Government in carrying on their public works is exemplified in the building of the Belfast and Murray Harbor Railway. During the recent session Senator Ferguson asked the Government Leader in the senate whether or not a contract had been let for any portion of this work other than the 1 1/2 miles first contracted for.

The Government Leader consulted the Railway Department and reported that no contract had been let. On a latter day Senator Ferguson again raised the question stating he had information that work was in progress beyond Kitchen's first contract. Again the Secretary of State said no contract had been given; but later he informed Senator Ferguson that the first answer had been given under a misapprehension as Mr. Schreiber, deputy minister of railways, had learned that work was going on, beyond the first contract. Mr. Schreiber said he had given orders to discontinue the work. But the work did not discontinue; it was still going on and is going on now, although no contract was entered into for this work by Mr. Kitchen. Finally Mr. Blair, Minister of Railways acknowledged in the House of Commons he had allowed Mr. Kitchen to go on with the remaining 3 1/2 miles of the road at the same rate as his first contract for the 1 1/2 miles. Mr. Blair seems to have made this bargain with Kitchen without even acquainting his deputy or his department with the facts. Did every one hear of such liberties with the peoples money?

Address and Presentations. On the occasion of the departure of the Rev. R. B. McDonald from Rustico to assume pastoral charge of Rustico, and also by the French speaking portion of the congregation. Rev. Dr. Chalmers was presented with an address from the English and French speaking members of his congregation, and also with an address from the C. M. B. A. Our space does not permit us to publish all the addresses; but we publish, with pleasure, the following:—

To Rev. R. B. McDonald, Parish Priest, Rustico. Rev. and Dear Father,—We are foredoomed to pronounce a farewell which is short time ago. We had hoped that, and, were it in our power, we would have removed the cause that constrains us to utter this unexpected adieu. Like a shock of grief came to our ears a few days ago, the news of the death of one of your brother priests, and now that grief is doubly intensified when we learn that you, to fill his place, are to be removed from us, and your labors have terminated in Rustico. For the past ten years you have filled the important position of Parish Priest of Rustico. You came to us not untrained for the duties of your high calling. Early years of Missionary life had been supplemented by later years of training in the schools of that famed society, the Jesuits. Ere you had knelt long at the feet of your superior, he said to you, "I have appointed you that you should go and that you should bring forth fruit and your fruit should remain."

But we have profited by all this. Your practical words of wisdom have been an exhortation and comfort to us; your tender care and solicitude for the little child and the young in general, will remain imprinted on their memory, and after you depart your words will bear fruit, which we hope will remain. But it was not only in matters purely spiritual that you have been our guide. Knowing as you did that the religious well-being of a people is intimately connected with their temporal surroundings, you have ever been zealous in your endeavors to keep them in pace with modern progress. The improved condition of every section of the community, the air of neatness and comfort that surround our homes, speak for themselves. Every movement for our advancement had your earnest support; so that in this respect, as well as in our spiritual welfare, you have brought forth fruit which we hope will remain. In union with our fellow Acadian parishioners we say that it is with heartfelt regret we sever our connections. As a priest you have edified us; as a teacher you have enlightened us. You have behind a memorial erected in the hearts of those to whom you ministered—a memorial which future ages can never cloud nor time destroy. Assuring you that wherever you go you will be followed by our best wishes and prayers and requesting you to remember us in your daily offering, we desire that you accept, inadequate though it be, this souvenir of our esteem.

Signed, Patrick Hughes, Thos. Doyle, Geo. McGuigan, John McDonald, James Power, John F. McLure, John Flemming, and others. Rustico, May 3rd, 1902. To Rev. Dr. Chalmers, D. D. Dear Reverend Father,—We need not say to you how deeply our hearts are grieved at the tidings we have just received of your departure from our midst at such an exceptionally short notice. Even if language were adequate, then, to express the sense of loss which floods our souls we would in such circumstances but poorly take advantage of it. Come to us when everything was in transition and difficulty, you have certainly by much self-sacrifice, by administrative ability of rare excellence, by a zeal and determination which broke none of the restraints which overmaster many men, in a marvellously short time completed the exterior construction of our large church, planned and carried to execution its interior finish in costly wood, equipped it with seating and furnished and adorned it in a manner which compels the admiration of all who enter its walls. The precious vestments, altar vessels and other essentials to the proper carrying out of the priestly functions, you have also added, as opportunity and means would permit you; and, with so little of your command what we have had to marvel at, you have cleared off completely the large debt which stood against us, and added all this without unduly oppressing the poorest among us. If we stand today one of the best equipped parishes in the diocese and entirely free of debt, that honor is entirely due to you. And as with the material so with the spiritual side of your pastorate. Was there ever a priest who more entirely devoted himself to the spiritual welfare of the flock? Always at your post you have, at all hours of the day or night, at all seasons of the year, been at our call when death or sickness menaced the lives of our families. The offices of the church have been carried out with a majesty befitting such solemn functions, with an exactitude which compelled us to be punctual and exact, and with a spirit of love for the Lord and His House, which, therefore, has spread itself with a sweet odor throughout the parish. Your example too has ever been in the highest sense priestly and salutary. And who but God knows your charity! The poor and afflicted will miss you most; you have been a good kind father to them, and since they have nothing but their esteem and prayers with which to requite them, shall follow you to your new home and

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LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

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There will be a grand tea party at Morell on Tuesday the 24th July. Look out for advt. and particulars in this paper later.

A MEETING of the merchant tailors of the City was held last night at which it was unanimously decided to conduct business in future upon a cash basis. This will not only be a benefit to the tailors but will also be beneficial to the customers as it has been agreed to give a discount of seven per cent off the present prices. The new arrangement takes place on and after June 1st.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

WHAT BERESFORD SAYS. Speaking in London the other day at a dinner of the Navy League, Rear Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, M. P., said he regarded the shipping combine with the most serious misgivings, because in time of war the British navy was largely dependent upon the mercantile marine for auxiliary vessels, and the country for the delivery of provisions. The speaker advocated subsidizing the British combine and a route to the Canadian route as the best steps for the government to adopt.

200 PERSONS KILLED. A terrible cyclone struck the historic town of Goliad, Texas, Sunday afternoon. As a result two hundred persons were killed and a hundred houses and three churches were destroyed. Goliad is a small port village, the capital of Goliad County, Texas. It is situated on the right bank of the San Antonio River, one hundred and twenty miles southeast of Austin.

FATE OF THE CONDOR. A Vancouver despatch says: It is definitely known that the long missing Condor foundered, carrying a crew of 110 to death in a gale on the 9th of December. In a letter to his brother, written from Bamfield Creek, Robert Marshall, a hunter on the sealing schooner Mary Taylor, says one of the schooners saw the Condor in distress on the night of December 9. The ship was firing off guns and rockets but it was too rough to go to her. Afterwards the sealers could not see her. The Condor sailed from here for the South Sea via Honolulu, December 2, and was never afterwards heard of, although small wreckage from her was found on the west coast of Vancouver.

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DIED. At St. Patrick's Road, on the 27th ult., Hannah Jennings, aged 76 years, relict of the late Patrick Donnelly, leaving five sons and seven daughters. R. I. P. At Little Tignish, on the 5th ult., Mrs. Chalmers, aged 73 years, relict of the late Louis Chalmers. R. I. P. At Hope River, Lot 22, on the 6th inst., after a lingering illness borne with patience and submission to the Divine Will, Mary McLean, beloved wife of William Turner, in her 83rd year, leaving a sorrowing husband, two sons and two daughters, besides a large circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn the loss of a true friend and a kind and dutiful wife and mother. R. I. P. In Boston, on the 9th inst., Mary Isabella Kiley aged 58 years. Deceased was a sister of Mrs. William Praught of this city, who was at her bedside when she died and who accompanied the remains to this city. The funeral took place on the 15th, from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Praught, to St. Dunstan's Cathedral, thence to Vernon River for interment. May her soul rest in peace.

In this city, on May 14th, after a short illness, Maria Wright, daughter of the late Henry Wright, Esq., of Cherry Valley. Funeral left her late residence, Duncester St., last Friday morning at 8 o'clock for St. Dunstan's Cathedral, thence to Vernon River Cemetery.

The death of Elizabeth Foley, beloved wife of Edward O'Leary, of Killmanagh Cottage, Greenmount, has cast a pall of gloom over the whole settlement. Ever since the spring opened she had been confined to her bed with a complication of serious diseases which at first her friends thought she would be able to overcome; but in the design of Providence it was to be otherwise, and shortly she became much worse, and after a period of great suffering, borne with most admirable resignation, she breathed out her pure soul to God, in Whom she trusted and Whom she loved, on Monday, the 12th inst., surrounded by her afflicted husband and friends. Mrs. O'Leary was one of those superior women who endear themselves on account of their gentle dispositions and true Christian virtues to everybody; and the long string of wagons which followed her remains to Sacred Heart Church on Thursday morning last, attested to this much more eloquently than words. The whole community, Protestant and Catholic, was there. Her pastor, who visited her in her trying illness, Rev. Father Burke, chanted her Requiem, and she was lovingly laid to rest in the parish cemetery to await the Resurrection. Mrs. O'Leary was one of the numerous Foley family of Killaree, formerly of the South Shore. She was 60 years of age. Her brother, John, and a sister in the States, survive her. To her husband and friends we offer our sincere sympathy. May she rest in peace.—C.M.

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This is a medium weight Tweed now very much worn in New York. It is 56 inches wide and comes in several shades.

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In Black and the newest shades, 56 inches wide, good weight and special finish.

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