

guarded reply, as I thought; I said that the government were only authorized to go to the extent of \$2,500; that they had gone that far and whether they would go any further or not depended altogether upon whether the province was in a position to do it. If, after consultation with our friends in the legislature and conferring with the members they felt disposed to do it why would I speak in a plain and most unambiguous way as to our taking counsel with the members supporting us in the legislature, before I would commit myself in any way to any definite pledge on the subject, while anxious to help the project forward. That

Statement was Misreported and Magnified.
I found that the Sun newspaper had been given that misreported version, the erroneous version of it, and that there was a very great deal of excitement in St. John over what was assumed was my positive and unqualified refusal to consent or favor any further aid. That was the view they put forward.

M. Wilson—There was an affidavit made to that effect? A—Yes. A declaration made to the press that that was my statement; a statutory declaration to the effect that I said that I would not give further aid. Well I did not say so and on Wednesday evening when I was speaking at Harvey, there was one gentleman present who had been at my meeting in Stanley, the Rev. Mr. Mullen, a Presbyterian clergyman and a political opponent of mine, very strongly so, and I took occasion (he being present), without any previous communication with him at all, but while I was on the platform, and seeing him in the audience, to call attention to the

Erroneous version of my Remarks
at Stanley which has been put forward, and read that version and I asked the Rev. Mr. Mullen if he would be kind enough to say whether I said that or this, and I went on to repeat, as nearly as I could from memory, what I said at Stanley, and Mr. Mullen was kind enough to get up in his place and say in that meeting that he felt it was his duty to say, although not a friend of mine politically, that what I had just given was the true version and the version set to the newspapers in St. John was not the true version of what I had said. Mr. Mullen stated that publicly at my meeting there. When I went to St. John I had scarcely got into the hotel before I began to be interviewed by leading citizens down there upon this very subject. I cannot recall all their names at the present moment, but quite a number dropping in, one after another, referred to this very matter of the report which had gone abroad as to my action and

Attitude Toward Further Aid to St. John
and they asked me how I felt about it. Well I said, gentlemen, I will make a statement from the platform to-night just how I personally feel on the subject and I trust it will be satisfactory. I made that statement.

Q—Outside of that public declaration which you made in St. John, did you give any promise to any person to authorize anybody else to make any promise as to the government giving further aid to the dock? A—No; I did not. Most unhesitatingly I say not. No private individual received any assurance or any statement from me on the subject at all, no person representing Mr. Leary and no private individual, whatsoever. I stated to these gentlemen when they called upon me and spoke to me on the subject in the hotel in St. John, that I would make a public statement from the platform, which I hoped would be satisfactory. I made it. No there is

Not a Living Mortal can say
that I ever did.

Q—After Mr. Leary and the members of the common council appeared before the executive council did you see him subsequent to that? A—Mr. Leary?

Q—Yes? A—Yes.

Q—Where? A—In the Queen Hotel only once after he appeared before the council. I was in the Queen Hotel on the Sunday evening following. I was there in the secretary Mr. McCall's room; I was there altogether a couple of hours, and by the way that was the occasion when one of the newspapers said there had been a Sunday carnival in the Queen Hotel. I went into the hotel in the evening after dinner and was not there a great while before all these gentlemen, who had been before the council, every individual one of them, came in, Mr. Leary, the mayor, Aldermen Baskin, Kelly, Peters and Connor. I don't know whether there were any others or not, but those were the ones that I remember. They all came in and came in together.

Mr. Hanington—On Sunday? A—On Sunday evening. I had not a word of private conversation with Mr. Leary on the subject of the dock at all.
Hon. Mr. Pugsley—You had not? A—Not a word nor with anybody else on the subject of the dock. I don't recollect at this moment that the dock was mentioned. I could not say that it was not, for my memory is not, perhaps, to be depended on to that extent, but if there was anything said it was said.

Publicity in the Hearing of Everybody.
Not a private syllable was uttered.
Q—You say that from the 3rd day of January, when you telephoned to the late provincial secretary that you were willing the contract should be given, that the matter passed over your hands? A—I presumed that was the end of it. I presumed as far as the government were concerned that it was disposed of, and it passed out of my mind. As I say I felt that my own matters were of much importance that I did not go through and examine the draft of the contract which you sent me.

Q—Did you ever suggest to Mr. Leary, or anyone on his behalf, or directly or indirectly authorize anyone to suggest that this contract should be given on condition that he should contribute to the election? A—No, never; never!
Q—You say you never knew of his contributing? A—Such a thought as that never entered my mind.

Q—Did you ever know whether or not he contributed anything? Did you ever know of his contributing? A—Not a cent.
Q—From the third of January, you say that so far as you were concerned it was settled and understood that the contract should be given to Leary? A—I took it for granted that all that remained was to have the agreement formally prepared and signed, as far as I was concerned.

The cross-examination by Mr. Hanington was rigid, but it did not in the least shake the attorney general's statements. Alderman Stackhouse and Alderman McGoldrick, of St. John, were examined, but except that they denied that so far as they knew any money was contributed to the election fund by Mr. Leary, their evidence was unimportant.

Mr. McCallan's evidence was direct and unequivocal, leaving no doubt whatever that no arrangement existed with Mr. Leary for the payment of money to aid the government in the election. He said that he was anxious to have the docks built and was willing to do all in his power to get additional aid from the government. He said that the contract was virtually given to Leary on December 3rd, and that he so considered it.

James Murray sworn: Resides in St. John. Was at one time United States

counsel there. Am from New York city. Do a lumber business in St. John and throughout the province, contracting for piling for J.D. Leary, of New York. Have known him for twenty years. Took no part in getting the dock contract for him from the city, nor from the government, except in the latter case to act as Leary's agent of correspondence. I communicated with the solicitor general a number of times. Began, I think, in latter part of December to talk with Pugsley about it. He was the only member of the government I talked to. Saw him four or five times and urged him to get the contract signed. Right after the order in council Pugsley submitted the draft contract to me and I sent the substance to Leary. I did not consult any solicitor. Did not send Leary a copy of the contract. Had no solicitor at all. Never talked with Gilbert Pugsley about it. He was Leary's solicitor; I think I heard it the very day Leary retained him. I was in St. John at the time, but was not present when McCallan signed the contract. Had spoken to Wm. Pugsley a few days before the signing. The contention from the time the contract was submitted till it was signed was that it would absolutely bind Leary to go on with the work on a subsidy of \$2,500 a year, so a saving clause was added at Leary's instance that he would not be bound unless the subsidy was increased. The draft contract did not have the saving clause. It was two weeks before it was added. I could not entertain the proposition till the saving clause was added.

What day was it Pugsley first told you he would put the saving clause in?
A—About the 10th or 12th January. Am sure it was before the 15th.
I exercised no influence over the government. I did not know the least thing about any telephone message to Mr. Barry about money being sent to York. I have no knowledge of how money was raised for the election in St. John. There never was any doubt in my mind after the publication of the provincial secretary's letter to the mayor that the contract would be given to Leary. I never knew or heard of Leary contributing money for York election in consideration of his getting the contract, or of Mr. Blair or any one else ever receiving money from Leary or any one acting for him directly or indirectly for election purposes.

Mr. Pugsley.
He outlined the various orders in council and the proceedings had with the government in reference to the dock scheme in St. John. Coming down to the order in council passed in December last, and to the letter of the Provincial Secretary to the Mayor of St. John, and particularly that of January 3rd, he stated that after that date he was, as Solicitor General, prepared at any time to complete the Leary contract and accordingly when delegated by the Attorney General to draw the contract, he had done so, and had forwarded the draft to the Attorney General. As a return to the attorney general for leaving his own county and attending the St. John meeting, he had informed him that the resolution moved by M. C. Atkinson, a member for the county of Carleton, preferring certain charges against the Hon. A. G. Blair, beg to report as follows:

No direct evidence was adduced before the committee on the part of the prosecution to establish the truth of the charges as contained in the resolution, while Mr. Blair has positively and emphatically denied and disavowed any agreement or arrangement with Mr. Leary by which (Leary) was to contribute to the election fund of Mr. Blair and his colleagues in York, or that any money was so received. We are regret to report that in our opinion was excluded under the ruling of the majority of the committee, and that in consequence the investigation had not been thorough and searching as in our opinion, in justice to all concerned, it should have been, and we have to express our regret that against the remonstrance of the undersigned such testimony was not produced. We regret to report that it is undeniably proved that the sum of \$1,500 was sent from St. John by parties in sympathy with the government and who took a deep interest in the dock scheme in that city, and in addition to the government ticket in York, on the eve of the general provincial election and immediately prior to the execution of the contract for the construction of the dock, and that such contribution, or a major part of it, was made with the knowledge and approval of the attorney general and solicitor general.

M. C. ATKINSON.
CHANCELLOR VON CAPRIVI.
Creates a Good Impression.
BERLIN, April 15.—The Prussian Diet was opened to-day by Chancellor Von Caprivi. In his speech he said:—"It is not my intention to state the government's programme, but, having hitherto, held in mind also of political life. I now wish to speak a few words in order to approach you personally." (Cheers) The Chancellor then referred to the important position which had been held by Prince Bismarck, and expressed the hope that in the future the Empire would continue secure. The edifice of the State, he said, was cemented firmly enough to resist wind and weather. Moreover, the noble personality of the young monarch had already. He affirmed his undying belief in the future of Prussia's shoulders. Both for a long time to come would be a historical necessity. Both countries anticipate the future full of hope. The Emperor had said that his course would remain the same. The inauguration of a new era was therefore not to be expected, although a more harmonious solidarity would be manifested among the members of the Diet. In conclusion, the Chancellor said he would allow the widest scope to practical criticism, and would adopt what was good wherever it was found. He would co-operate with all persons having at heart the interest of Prussia and aiming to foster the monarchical feeling in Prussia and the national feeling throughout the Empire. (Cheers)

The speech was received with general approval by the Chamber. Herr Von Heune, of the Right Bench, went to the Ministerial bench and shook hands with the Chancellor. Herr Rickert, a Freisinger leader, expressed satisfaction with the general tenor of the speech, and he trusted the government with concede a reform in taxation. His party, he declared, would continue to defend the Constitutional State system. Herr Seidlitz, of the Free Conservative party, and Herr Richter, the German Liberal leader, expressed confidence in the Ministerial declarations. Dr. Windthorst declared that the Centrists insisted upon the re-establishment of the relations between Church and State which existed before the Kulturkampf. He complained of maladministration in the Public Work Department and defended adherence to the Protection policy in economic matters.

Fifty-two years ago Saturday Lord and Matthews were hanged in the Toronto jail yard, just where the present Court-street is, for complicity in the rebellion of 1837. Mr. Charles Durand, who is still alive, was a witness of the execution from one of the jail windows, where he was confined at the time. The men were hanged, notwithstanding 30,000 citizens petitioned for their pardon.

THE HERALD.

FREDERICTON, APRIL 21, 1890.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The complete exoneration of Mr. Blair from the charges preferred against him, an exoneration in which the majority of the committee, both of whom are his strong political opponents and one of them the accuser himself, join, puts an end to the greatest attack ever made upon the honor of a public man in New Brunswick. This is not simply that the charge is not proved, but that it is disproved—that is the evidence not only fails to show that the alleged wrong doing was committed, but proves most conclusively that it was not committed. Unprejudiced men everywhere, who have followed the evidence, will concur in its fullest extent the majority report.

There ought to have been no minority report in this case and the presentation of one only shows the length to which some of the opponents of the government are prepared to go. We have no desire to question the motives of any member of the assembly, but it is a matter of record that the two gentlemen, who have gone outside of the scope of the resolution, outside of the evidence and outside of the facts relating to the enquiry in order, if possible, to leave a drop of poison where they failed to find it, have done so. They have been severely castigated in the house by the attorney general. We do not say that the mean report which they have presented is their method of taking revenge; but if vindictiveness had been their ruling motive they could scarcely have done otherwise. In presenting their report they have shown that the scope of the enquiry was limited by the exclusion of evidence they may score a point among those who are anxious to see Mr. Blair discredited, but they do so at the expense of the good opinion of every fair-minded man. No one knows better than Mr. Phinney that the majority of the questions ruled out were asked with the deliberate intention of having them ruled out in order to have something on which to base a cry that the enquiry was being restricted. No one knows better than Mr. Phinney that the evidence of Mr. A. G. Robertson and Mr. F. E. Barker, as stated by Mr. Hanington himself, had no earthly bearing upon the question before the committee.

The closing allegation of the minority report that it was proved that funds came to York from persons interested in the dock scheme is simply untrue. The direct contrary was shown. The names of the persons who contributed to the money sent to York were given by Mr. Kelly and not one of them had an interest indirectly even in the contract.

That Mr. Phinney should have signed such a report is unworthy of a gentleman who has attained a certain professional and political standing and ought to have a future before him. Nothing better was expected of Dr. Atkinson, who may plead that he did not know what the report meant, but better things were expected of Mr. Phinney. He might for once have risen above the rut of partisanship and frankly stated what in his own mind he knows to be true. He chooses poor company when he puts his neck in the yoke with Dr. Atkinson to drag George F. Gregory out of the mire.

THE ACCUSER ON THE STAND.

Dr. Atkinson cut a pretty figure on the witness stand. He refused to answer questions which were put to him by the majority of the assembly and generally assumed the role of a criminal who eludes to be excused from answering questions on the ground that no man is bound to prove himself guilty. One would have thought that Dr. Atkinson was on trial. His counsel watched him as he testified, and he seemed to be a criminal; and the great deputy apostle of purity, when the opportunity was given him to speak, was practically dumb. Only one fact was elicited from him—that he did not prepare the charge which was given him to read, but he preferred it without taking the slightest trouble to ascertain that it was well-founded. But this one fact discloses the grossest possible breach of the privilege of a representative and the laws of the assembly. If the law of parliament confers upon the members of the assembly the privilege of investigation upon his alleging that he believes he can prove the charges he makes, it also imposes upon him the duty to ascertain that there is some basis for his charge before he makes it. One might add that the instincts of honor, such as the meek man ought to possess, would compel him to the same course; and we do not want to try out Dr. Atkinson's conduct by this test. On the lower ground of parliamentary law, by his own confession made under oath he stands convicted of having grossly abused his privileges, and of having rendered himself unfit for a seat in any legislative body. Hereafter no assertion that he may make in the legislature is entitled to or will receive credence even from those with whom he is politically associated. He has staked what in his case is a substitute for honor and he has lost.

WHICH?

The clearer was—"The government of this province deliberately sold to the agents of Mr. Leary—a foreigner—a public contract for a certain sum of money to be used in the late election." This statement was made after all the evidence was in and after the only agent that Mr. Leary had used on the stand and under the most rigid cross-examination distinctly and unequivocally denied that anything of the kind was true. We have on one side of the case:

The sworn statement of the Attorney General.
The sworn statement of the ex-Provincial Secretary.
The sworn statement of the Solicitor General.
The sworn statement of Mr. Murray, agent for Leary.
The sworn statement of Alderman Kelly.
The sworn statement of Alderman McGoldrick.
The sworn statement of Alderman Stackhouse.
And these gentlemen, who would certainly know something about such a transaction, if it occurred, swore in terms which admit of no qualification, which are so sweeping that if there was the remotest shadow of foundation for the charge, they have been guilty of perjury—they swore, we repeat, at there was no bargain, corrupt or otherwise, between Mr. Leary and Mr. Blair, or between Mr. Leary and any member of the government—either personally or by agents—for the contribution of one dollar to the election fund in York or any place else. On the other side of the case we have:

The Gleaser, which on countless occasions has been shown to prefer falsehood to truth and revels in malicious slanders.
The appointment of Pierre A. Landry to the county court judgeship rendered vacant by the death of Judge Betsford, is worthy of special remark as it is the first instance of an Acadian receiving a judicial appointment in this province.

THE CASES ARE NOT PARALLEL.

The opposition have pretended that the charge against Mr. Blair and the Clerk of the Peace investigated are parallel cases. They are not. In the Clerk of the Peace investigation the facts were: The late George J. Bliss, Clerk of the Assembly and Deputy Clerk of the Peace was known to be in receipt of a larger salary than appeared in the public accounts, and it was also known that he claimed to be entitled to this salary under an agreement made with him when he resigned the clerkship of the Legislative Council. The government not having disclosed how this salary was paid, Mr. Blair asked for an investigation into the income of the office of Clerk of the Peace, on the assumption that as there was no other source of public revenue from which the additional salary could be paid it must be paid from this source. The evidence showed that Attorney General Fraser was paying the additional salary out of his own private funds. Whereupon the government withdrew the charge. The case was dropped. Mr. Fraser's boundless respectability and goodness of heart, set up the cry that these were assailed, when not a word was said from the beginning to the end of the whole matter reflecting personally or otherwise upon that gentleman. Dr. Atkinson's charge was distinctly against Mr. Blair personally.

THE GRAND TRUNK EXTENSION.

The latest proposal of the Temiscouata Railway people, in the interests of the Grand Trunk, is to build a line between St. Hyacinthe and Arthabaskaville, Quebec both points in the Grand Trunk between Quebec and Montreal. The railway between these two points now forms two sides of a triangle of which the new line will be the base and will save a distance of twenty miles. Then it is proposed to build a line from Kamouraska on the Intercolonial to a point on the Temiscouata railway that will be saved, or a distance of thirty-five miles altogether between Montreal and Edmundston. It is also proposed to build a line into Fredericton and make a direct connection with St. John. The latter it is claimed will be about forty miles longer than the distance over the C. P. R.

Mr. Wilson as chairman of the committee of investigation held a very difficult position but discharged its duties in a highly satisfactory manner. Even Mr. Hanington admitted the character of the evidence to compliment him upon the fairness and good judgment shown in his rulings. Undoubtedly Mr. Wilson permitted the enquiry to take a very much wider scope than was warranted by the resolution appointing the committee, but in so doing he complied towards the consciences that there was nothing which ought to be concealed, and he drew the line only at such questions as could not be met by the forced constructions of the principles of evidence received anywhere. If the investigation had been conducted by the chairman nor of any member of the committee.

This province is just now going through a season of political virtue. To hear the howl that some people are making because St. John sent \$1500 to York, one would think that no one had ever heard of using money at an election. These professions of purity come with pretty grace from a party that sent \$4000 into Northumberland to defeat Mr. Tweedie and nearly as much into York to help Mr. Gregory. It may be a very melancholy thing that money is used at elections; but it is used, though perhaps not nearly as much of it as is done by some people imagining that there are large expenses which must be met and no one knows this better than the papers which are now professing to be horror-stricken over the little contribution to York. Half the amount would secure the support of any one of these blatant purists.

When the Speaker named Hon. Mr. Mitchell as a member of the committee on Dr. Atkinson's charge, Mr. Mitchell raised a question as to whether he ought to act. Mr. Hanington protested that there was not the slightest objection but that he ought to go on the committee. In view of this Mr. Hanington's subsequent objection to Mr. Mitchell being on the committee fell from him with very poor grace. The objection to Mr. Wilson, which has been made the subject of so much talk, ought to have been taken at the time he was named, and would have been taken then if there had been anything in it.

The amendments to the Controverted Elections Act have caused much discussion. We think it will be found when the Bill has passed that the law has been greatly improved and no way done any person on principle.

TROUBLED LABOR.

At a meeting of the Vienna cabinet on the 14th decided that the men employed in the government workshops shall be prohibited from taking a holiday May 1 under pain of dismissal. The ministry will not interfere with men employed by private concerns except to prevent intimidation or disorder. The Jewish law regarding the May Day demonstrations are inconveniently tradesmen generally. A large number intended to close their shops, and many will leave the capital. It is probable that the halls and other places of public resort will be closed. The police authorities have forbidden street processions, and will take extensive precautionary measures. The police will have military assistance.

What threatened to be a long and bitter contest between capital and labor in New York in the way of a strike of the trades generally on the 14th has been averted and men of all trades went to work. The difference between the Central Labor union and the Hecla iron works people was adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. The non-union men employed have been discharged.

Both the bricklayers and the masons' unions of Chicago have signified their intention of supporting the striking carpenters and they will refuse to work upon buildings where non-union men are employed. All the other unions of the building trade are expected to follow suit, so that building operations will be very limited until the strike is settled.

The strike in the Toronto building trades continues. The masters, who are as confident or as stubborn as the men, think the outlook is gloomy and that the end is a long way off. A number of the contractors whose work is urgent are paying the increased wages demanded. Some of the men are leaving for the United States. The stonecutters took their tools from the different yards. The strikers propose to ask the city council to bring some pressure to bear on the contractor for the new city building to compel him to go on with the work. They think such a course would compel him to pay the increase in wages asked for.

The Philadelphia Press says a syndicate has been formed with a backing of \$500,000 to buy up all the lithographic plants in the United States, and form a great lithographic trust to control all the business of small and large firms.

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