

## COMMISSIONER McQUEEN'S REPORT WORTHLESS PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Its Inaccuracies, Its Transparent Efforts to Mislead and Its Extreme Bias Mark it as a Joke — Its Whole Tenor Shows a Preconceived Plan to Bring in But One Verdict, Regardless of Truth, and That to Discredit Certain Prominent Men in Public Life.

(Proletarian Gleaner)  
The report of Commissioner McQueen on the Potato Inquiry is quite as partisan as was expected, in making up, in criticism and in recommendation. Its inaccuracies, its transparent efforts to mislead, its extreme bias make it an absolutely worthless public document. We print the report in full elsewhere in these columns today to enable the intelligent reading public to judge it for themselves. There can be no question as to what the judgment will be. Other commissioners appointed by the present Government to investigate some of the dealings of the late administration report of the charges inaccurately based and not founded upon the full facts. Unfortunately for the province, and unfortunately for our provincial public life if it is desirable to maintain a reasonable status, the Cabinet, acting upon the advice of extreme partisans who had personal and narrow party interests to serve, determined to make it appear—whether true or not—that the late Government were really dishonest in the administration of public business. For this purpose they sought the services of one of the most vicious partisans within the province as Commissioner, and instructed him to get into harness. That is not the part that members of Government sworn to protect and promote the public interests should pursue. The good of the province was not the service to be performed; to blacken all hands the reputation of certain public men was the purpose sought to be accomplished, and to be accomplished merely for the gratification of a few malicious partisans who have been in close touch with the present Government. The business has been so overworked, and the motive throughout so apparent, that not even a passing interest has been aroused by the presentation of the report. That is the position the Government, unfortunately for their political ambitions, find themselves in today.

Readers will recall that the attitude of Commissioner McQueen, from very beginning of what is hardly named the inquiry, was so unreasonable, and his conduct so repulsive, that counsel for the ex-Minister of Agriculture, Mr. P. H. Taylor, K. C.,

leading member of the Bar of this province, withdrew in disgust, having satisfied himself that fair treatment and proper consideration were not to be accorded the interests of his client. And from that time on, up to a few days of the close, the Commissioner and the Government counsel ran things in their own way and after their own fashion, unscrupulously, to serve their party and personal interests. Witnesses were without protection, and without the benefit of the advice of counsel. Those who can recall the apparently conflicting testimony of some of the witnesses will, therefore, readily understand that the process to grill—designedly employed by the Government counsel to confuse and mystify, and the use of which was encouraged by the Commissioner in the absence of counsel for the witnesses—was a premeditated arrangement. Apparent inaccuracies in testimony given under such circumstances may not be inaccurate when the whole story is told in its logical sequence.

As a matter of fact, the inquiry has not revealed anything not known previously beyond the admission that the loss in the transaction was ultimately made up from party funds, contributed by a friend of the party who was then a member of a company who held a contract with another company over which the Government exercised some authority. The province was not, therefore, a loser. It was protected in the arrangements made by friends of the Government. Mr. P. B. Smith, acting as the buying agent of the Department of Agriculture, notwithstanding the statement of the Commissioner, who reaches his conclusions by deliberately ignoring the full evidence and confining himself to mere portions. It was therefore the duty of the department to finance his operations. He was then not a member of the Legislature, and in no way responsible as such. He was acting wholly as a dealer in agricultural products. If he bought too largely, the responsibility was with the department. He should have been given the order to stop before a surplus accumulated. And as to the mistake that occurred, it fell victim to the mistake that nearly every potato dealer in the province made during that year. The belief

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was general that the demand in Europe, in Cuba, and elsewhere would send the price of potatoes up. The department expected in that way to make a profit that would in measure reduce the cost to the province of the potatoes it was freely sending to Europe and to England as a war contribution. The price, however, dropped; it dropped suddenly and seriously. Every dealer lost money; several of them many thousands. But, as far as the province was concerned, the party organization fund spared it the loss that the department would naturally have sustained in the ordinary process.

It must, however, be admitted that it would have been more in keeping with ordinary and natural business methods had the department submitted to the loss, and not sought irregular ways and means to make it good. The process, led undoubtedly to irregularity of method. It led to confusion and confusion led to practices and temporary covering, not dishonest in the purpose, but not commendable in the handling of public business. And all this from a desire not to involve the province in a loss which, in the regular dealing, it was not unreasonable that it should bear. The Hon. Jas. A. Murray says it was inefficiency in administration. The fact is, his deputy was overcautious and unequal to a job of that kind.

As further evidence of Commissioner McQueen's unfairness and partiality, here is one of his gems in his own words: "The way in which this potato deal was handled through the Hon. J. A. Murray, the

late Minister of Agriculture, as stated under oath by his former Secretary, is a remarkable disclosure, and, if sworn proof and documentary evidence had not been produced before me in support thereof, would be almost incredible. I would therefore suggest that the records herein be bound and preserved as a book of reference for future statesmen not to follow." And all this without the slightest reasonable basis of fact upon which to make it. Mr. Murray, as a member of the Government, may have been imprudent or indiscreet in making a personal loan for mutual accommodation with the A. C. Smith Co. of St. John's while they had dealings with the Government. If he really did so; but clearly that loan had nothing whatever to do with the potato transaction in so far as Mr. Murray is concerned. The report does not even say that the accounts submitted to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature three years ago were the accounts up to that date. How could accounts then put before the committee include returns and items that did not come in and were not disposed of until long afterwards.

In his efforts to determine the directions to which the political contributions by Mr. W. B. Tennant, as a member of the Nova Scotia Construction Company, were assigned, Commissioner McQueen has it all. Mr. Tennant, aware that these were made from his profits as member of the Construction Company, yet the pious Commissioner practically denounces those who participated as criminals. Mr. McQueen can apparently arouse his righteousness indignation at will, and for almost any purpose, and this may be one of the qualities which recommended him so highly to the Government.

The report of the Stevens Commission, appointed by the present Government to investigate railway affairs, views the Tennant connection with the Nova Scotia Construction Company as a purely business connection, and quite natural. Mr. McQueen admittedly not an accepted authority on any legal or business proposition, says the connection is a crime. And, speaking and writing, and it may be, gesturing at Shillash, under the influence of this absurd notion, he savagely condemns Mr. Geo. B. Jones, M. L. A., who was the financial man of the late Government's party organization. Mr. Jones, at the request of one in higher authority in the party, accepted the contribution of Mr. Tennant; and, acting on the same authority, he paid it out in different amounts to the persons and services to whom and to which it was assigned. That is not a very serious offence, as political party business has been conducted in this and the other provinces for many years. But partisanship led to the more serious condemnation. Mr. Jones' evidence, he says, is at variance with that given before a former commissioner. Mr. McQueen knows, or he ought to know, that this mean insinuation is based on an exaggerated interpretation, and is wholly unwarranted. There is not a more honorable man, or a more reliable man, in the public life and in the business life of this country than Mr. Geo. B. Jones.

The findings of the Commissioner are naturally many, but he finds chiefly that the country has gone to the dogs; that private contributions to the political party organization funds of the late Government should revert to the Foster Government with the least possible delay; and that his report, which he believes will be cherished as a document of great value, should be preserved within hardboard covers for the benefit of future generations.

### WEDDINGS.

**Bereilawitche-Colman.**  
Moncton, March 19.—A marriage ceremony of more than ordinary interest was solemnized in Tomb's Hall last evening at 8 o'clock when Miss Ethel Coleman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coleman, of this city, became the bride of Mr. Isaac Bereilawitche, of New Glasgow. The wedding ceremony was conducted by Rabbi Joseph Chassey, of Moncton, and all the Hebrew rites attending the marriage, carried out in their entirety. The wedding was the largest attended of any such Jewish ceremony in Moncton for years, there being upwards of 300 guests present including friends from St. John, Halifax, New Glasgow, Amherst and Sussex. A number of prominent citizens of Moncton were invited guests.

The bridesmaids were two sisters of the bride, the Misses Jessie and Sarah Coleman, while the groom was supported by Louis Mendelson and Jacob Ross. The bride was most becomingly attired in a gown of white, the bridesmaids being also prettily gowned.

The happy couple were the recipients of a large number of handsome and costly presents. The groom's present to the bride was a handsome necklace. A large number of pretty flower girls were in attendance adding to the beauty and picturesqueness of the scene. The hall was profusely decorated throughout.

Supper was served to over 300 guests after which the evening was given over to speech making, music and dancing. Mr. George B. Willett, who was present was called upon and made a few happy remarks, extending congratulations to the happy couple.

The Citizens' Band, under direction of Bandmaster Grandall, furnished excellent music for the dance which was kept up until an early hour.

Through the agency of Mr. Isaac Selig, the sum of \$15.84 was collected from among the assembled guests, for the ambulance fund, and \$10.40 for the City Hospital. Mrs. Benjamin Copeland also collected the sum of \$25.00 for the "back to Zion" movement. The sum collected for the ambulance fund was handed to Mrs. (Mrs) Ferguson, who was present and graciously acknowledged.

The happy couple will leave on the moon trip to Montreal and other Upper Canadian cities, and on their return will reside in New Glasgow. A host of friends will unite in extending best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Bereilawitche for a long and happy married life.

## GRANT THE HOURS BUT NOT WAGES

Lancashire Cotton Employers Accede to the Request for a Forty-nine Hour Week.

London, Mar. 20.—Lancashire cotton employers have decided to grant the workers a forty-nine and one-half hour week compared with the present fifty-five and one-half hour week, but declare they cannot concede the demand for increased wages. The workers had asked for a forty-four hour week with increased pay to enable them to earn the same amount in forty-four hours as in fifty-five and one-half.

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## Mothers' Advice

The responsibility for a daughter's future largely rests with the mother. The right influence and the information which is of vital interest to the daughter imparted at the proper time has not only saved the life but insured the success of many a beautiful girl. When a girl's thoughts become languid with headache, dizziness, or a disposition to sleep, pains in back or lower limbs and a desire for solitude, her mother should come to her aid and remember that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs, will at this time prepare the system for the coming change and start this trying period in a young girl's life without pain or irregularities. Thousands of women residing in every part of the United States bear willing testimony to the wonderful virtues of this medicine, and what it has done for their daughters.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—"I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound enough for what it has done for my daughter. She was 15 years of age, very sickly and pale and she had to stay home from school most of the time. She suffered agonies from headache and dizziness and was without appetite. For 3 months she was under the doctor's care and got no better. Always complaining about her back and side aching so I did not know what to do. I read in the papers about your wonderful medicine and I made up my mind to try it. She has taken five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and doesn't complain any more with her back and side aching. She has gained in weight and feels much better. I recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to all my friends and daughters."—Mrs. M. F. Adams, 515 Mary Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.



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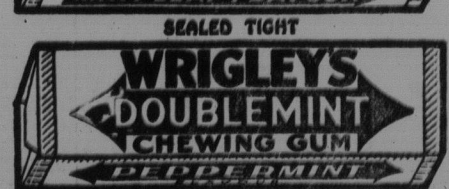
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