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Uncle Reuben's Elevator Ride

Uncle Reuben came back from the city, excited and nervous. He had gone to the city to transact some law business connected with his farm, with a lawyer whose address Reuben carried along for memorandum.

"Wal," he began, after his wife, alarmed at his changed condition, had threatened to summon the doctor from the nearest village, if he would not explain his cause. "I had about the skinniest shave from death this mornin' I ever heard on!" It was in that lawyers' buildin' too. "Y' see, I found the right place!" started lookin' through the buildin' for his name an' number. Finally after walkin' up stairs after stairs for two hours, I set down all tired out on the top step o' the last stairway, completely discouraged.

"Where kin I find Lawyer Barnes' office?" I asked a man hurryin' by me. He didn't stop but just pointed his thumb at a young feller standin' inside a cage-like room, chewin' gum like sixty. So I stepped over an' into this little room an' asked the boy if he was Lawyer Barnes' clerk. "No," he says, "bit fresh like, but I'll see that y' see him?" Then that fresh young feller hit the wall a punch that did the hull business!"

Here Reuben paused to cover his eyes and shake all over.

"He hadn't any more 'n hit that wall, when he dislodged that room's git-rich-quick fastenin'!" he went on, when his spell was over, an' th' hull floor o' that room fell right 'at an' down them fifteen stories to th' ground, takin' me an' that young feller with it!

"Wal, thank God, here I be, Sarahy. How either of us escaped gittin' every bone in our bodies broke I don't know, an' don't care. All I know is that floor fell flat on the ground an' we didn't lose our footin'! When that shock was over I hugged the young feller fr' joy an' gve him a five dollar bill for openin' the door an' lettin' me out ahead o' him. Then I hustled fr' home."

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Two Records Contrasted

The government of New Brunswick is charged with extravagance and with increasing the public debt beyond what is necessary for the well being of the province. In a pamphlet issued under the direction of Mr. Hazen it is asserted that in the first year in which Mr. Blair had control of the finances of New Brunswick there was a deficit. No more untrue statement was ever made. When the record of Mr. Blair and his successors is compared with that of those who preceded him in the management of the affairs of the province any unprejudiced student of the political history of New Brunswick can not but be convinced that the affairs of the province have been administered with greater care and conservatism during the past twenty-five years than in the first fourteen years after confederation.

During the period when the friends of Mr. Hazen administered the affairs of the province they withdrew from the surplus at Ottawa and gave away to political friends for railway subsidies the enormous sum of \$2,305,564.67. Besides this they gave away for the construction of the New-Brunswick railway 1,647,772 acres of the crown lands, worth at the very lowest estimate \$4,943,316—a sum equivalent to the total bonded debt of the province in 1906. They sold to political favorites 218,669 acres of the best forest lands of the province at from 50 to 80 cents an acre. These lands today would be worth \$654,207 at a modest valuation. In addition they created a bonded debt of \$891,200 and left Mr. Blair as a legacy of their misgovernment a floating indebtedness of \$321,374.47. On the eve of a general election they passed a railroad subsidy act which is responsible for additions to the debt of \$1,008,500.

As a direct result of this reckless administration of its affairs the annual income of the province was decreased \$325,258. Had Mr. Blair and his suc-

cessors enjoyed the income from the lands alienated for railroad subsidies or practically given away to lumbermen who were political friends and supporters, and had he not been compelled to provide for the interest on the liabilities contracted by his predecessors, there would have been ample means to pay for the construction of all the bridges erected in the province without adding a single dollar to the bonded debt. With a greatly reduced area of crown lands to work upon the present government has been able to increase the revenue three-fold compared with what it was twenty-five years ago.

As a further proof of what has been done to conserve the interests of the province it may be pointed out that of the two millions added to the debt of the province since the change of government a million and a half is for permanent bridges and other important public works which includes aid for the wharves, warehouses and grain elevators erected by the city of St. John on the western side of the harbor. Had the railway policy of the present government, by which the advances and guarantees made towards the construction of railways are secured by mortgage on the railroad, its rolling stock and franchise, been adopted at the beginning the province of New Brunswick would have saved at least four millions of its debt, because, with the exception of one or two unimportant lines, every railroad subsidized by New Brunswick is now a good paying property.—Sun.

Son Caused Mother's Death

Halifax, N. S. An investigation held today at Ohio, a village about seven miles from here, reveals a shocking state of affairs. About three weeks ago an aged woman named Caroline Hilton complained to Stipendiary C. S. Pelton, of Yarmouth, that she had been beaten by her son, Ebenezer Hilton, who used an axe handle as the implement of punishment. He was immediately apprehended and on trial was found guilty and sentenced to a year and a half in the common jail. On Friday last the aged woman, passed away and Rev. Mr. Saunders, pastor of the Baptist church at Ohio, refused to bury her until an inquest had been held. Accordingly, Coroner A. M. Perry, M. D., was summoned and held an inquest today, with Warden M. E. Saunders as foreman and the jury. Three witnesses were examined, the wife of Ebenezer Hilton, his daughter and the husband of the latter. The evidence showed that the son had beaten his mother into insensibility, had dragged her over the frozen ground, and kicked her. It was furthermore brought out that he had threatened to take her life. The evidence established the fact that the woman had never revived after her terrible ordeal. After due deliberation, the jury found that death had been caused by the beating received at the hands of her son, together with subsequent neglect, and recommended that the attorney general should immediately take the matter up.

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