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SUN PRINTING COMPANY.

ALFRED MARKHAM,
Manager.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

S. T. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 18, 1899.

A BRIDGE RECORD.

The report of the public works of the province of Nova Scotia, which has been issued, furnishes a cheerful contrast to the blue book issued by Mr. Emmerson. The Nova Scotia Department of public works may have its faults, but the chief engineer gives the public an opportunity to know exactly what money is paid on his authority, who receives it, and for what service. That information cannot be obtained from the New Brunswick reports. Again we find in the Nova Scotia report that the specifications printed in full, together with the form of contract, the names of all tenders, the amount of each tender, and the amount of the tender accepted.

Mr. Murphy does not mention Mr. Emmerson's attack on the quality of his work. But he offers some observations which bear on the subject. He says:

"In weight, in strength, and in workmanship, our bridges will compare favorably with any highway bridges in Canada or in the United States. The quality of the materials of the work is in all cases equal to the requirements of a regular engineering office, and a specification, both of which are furnished from the provincial secretary's office. Every one desirous of submitting a tender for any bridge is furnished with these address to the provincial secretary's office, will receive a circular, specification and diagram of the bridge, with the dimensions of every bar required in the construction. Forms of tender are also forwarded, so that each party may bid on the same footing and under the same conditions. There is no discrimination; the contract is invariably given to the lowest tender, and the tenders are published, so that they can be examined by all interested."

From this report of the operations of 1898 is compiled the following list of spans for which contracts were let in 1898, with the length of span and contract price.

Span.	Length.	Price.
1.	100	\$250
2.	100	250
3.	100	250
4.	100	250
5.	100	250
6.	100	250
7.	100	250
8.	100	250
9.	100	250
10.	100	250
11.	100	250
12.	100	250
13.	100	250
14.	100	250
15.	100	250
16.	100	250
17.	100	250
18.	100	250
19.	100	250
20.	100	250
21.	100	250
22.	100	250
23.	100	250
24.	100	250
25.	100	250
26.	100	250
27.	100	250
28.	100	250
29.	100	250
30.	100	250

For purposes of comparison we give below a table of the length of spans and cost of bridges recently built in this province. The first one mentioned is the Lefevre, the last is the Saunders bridge. For numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11 the cost is taken from the public accounts. For numbers 6 and 7 it is computed at 61-2 cents per pound, the price that Mr. Emmerson admits that he paid. Numbers 8 and 9 are the Petitcodiac and Port Elgin bridges, in which the contract was made for substructure and superstructure together. The cost of the superstructure is ascertained by deducting the tender value of the substructure from the amount paid for the whole. With the help of this table the Nova Scotia bridges may be compared as to size and cost with those built in this province.

Number.	Length of span.	Price.
1.	100	\$250
2.	100	250
3.	100	250
4.	100	250
5.	100	250
6.	100	250
7.	100	250
8.	100	250
9.	100	250
10.	100	250
11.	100	250

than half that of the 11 bridges in this province. If we leave out the three large bridges at the head of the New Brunswick list, we shall find that the remaining eight spans cost only a trifle less than the Nova Scotia twenty-nine bridges of 37 spans. Yet it would appear that the average length and weight of the New Brunswick bridges in this shorter list was less than the length and weight of the Nova Scotia structures.

THE CASTILLAN AND THE CURRENTS.

It is a little difficult to know the meaning of this passage from the Boston Herald's account of the loss of the Castilian:

"No authoritative explanation of the cause of the disaster is yet available. Whatever may be the cause, it is certain that the most skillful navigator that plies the ocean in transatlantic liners could not extricate his ship from the quick currents and tides which abound at the entrance to Fundy bay."

The Bay of Fundy tides and currents, such as they are, have been running for ages, and navigators skilled and unskilled have been sailing these waters. On the whole these tides have been and are more help than hindrance to navigators. The captain of the Castilian will not pretend that he could not keep his ship out to sea. He could have "extricated his ship" all right any time before she ran into the rock, but the trouble was that he did not know where his ship was and did not try to extricate it. It may have been a defect in the compass, a defect in the captain, or a defect in the ship which is responsible for the fact that the ship was allowed to be carried so far off her course. But no one will be so stupid as to say that the disaster to the Castilian or the loss of the Labrador was necessary, or excusable because of the currents.

THE LATE JOHN F. WOOD.

The death of Hon. John F. Wood inflicts a serious loss on the opposition party in the house of commons and on parliament as a whole. Mr. Wood was a man who worked his way to the front bench by strict attention to his public duties. He could not be called a brilliant man, but he was recognized as a clear thinker, a sound lawyer, a convincing and reasonable speaker. After the late change of government he proved himself one of the half dozen most effective critics of the government, and one of the most useful men in the standing committee. Mr. Wood's official career was not a long one, but in the excise department he proved a good administrator, and he is said to have thoroughly mastered the details of the business in his charge. He has been for some years one of the political leaders in eastern Ontario, and before he took office was regarded as a leader of the bar in that populous and progressive district of which Brockville is the most important town. Personally Mr. Wood was much respected by both parties, while he never wavered in his allegiance to his own party.

THE NEW SENATORS.

Some years ago Hon. David Mills, an anticipated candidate and a senator, declared that the senate was a reward for wealthy contributors to campaign funds, and a refuge for defeated candidates. Mr. Mills and his colleagues have just appointed two senators. The gentlemen selected in this province is a man of ample means who is supposed to have taken a substantial interest in the late provincial election. The senator from Ontario has been beaten in three consecutive elections in West Northumberland. While mentioning these qualifications the Sun is prepared to admit that they are not the only ones possessed by Mr. McSweeney and Mr. Kerr. The former is a successful, capable and reputable business man. He is well liked in Westmorland, which county, with Mr. Wood, Mr. Porter and Mr. McSweeney to represent it, should be able to exert its fair share of influence in the red chamber. Mr. Kerr is a lawyer of more than local eminence, who is well known in Methodist educational circles on account of his connection with Victoria University. Though it appears to be impossible for him to enter the house of commons by election, Mr. Kerr may yet have the opportunity of sitting with the successful candidates after Sir Wilfrid gets the two chambers mixed.

(From Thursday's Daily Sun.)

THE SESSION.

The fourth session of the eighth parliament of Canada meets today, some two months behind time. The opening speech is uninformative as to the future, but mentions several historical events which everybody knew. It tells of the buoyant revenue, but says nothing about the buoyant expenditure. It ignores the failure of the international negotiations and solemnly mentions the prospective resumption of the labors of the com-

mission next summer. The government has doubtless several deals to propose before this session is over. They are not now mentioned. We shall hear about them towards the end of the session, when all the members who have survived the heat of the long summer sittings are anxious to get home.

THE PROTECTION IN THE WEST.

The liberals, patrons and other low tariff advocates in the west are not well satisfied with the recent statement of their own minister, Mr. Sifton, who declared the other day at a public meeting that the tariff was no longer a political issue. Mr. Sifton held that the present tariff suited the conservatives and also suited the government. Therefore the tariff was out of politics.

There is no doubt that the Fielding tariff is more satisfactory to the conservatives than the tariff which the liberals promised. So far as the government has refrained from interfering with the national policy, the authors of the national policy are not only pleased but proud. Their work has been justified even by their enemies.

But it appears that there remain a few people who accepted at their face value the denunciations of protection. Among these who were opponents of the national policy, and supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, some remain opponents of the national policy. They say, perhaps more in evidence in the west than elsewhere, because Manitoba and the Territories have a relatively small manufacturing population and are large purchasers of goods produced at a distance. The western farmer was taught through long years to regard the protection of Canadian manufacturing as the source of all his woes. The tariff of the west is an independent source of man and it takes more than a witty simile to convince him that all his alleged wrongs are righted by a change of government, which does not reduce the protection of the producer of farm machinery, of cotton goods, or other articles which he uses.

Two representatives of the west have responded to the discontent of the settlers. Mr. Oliver of Alberta and Mr. Richardson of Manitoba, who are both liberals, have been holding a meeting in Regina. It was reported to be a great liberal meeting, but it passed a resolution calling on the government to amend the tariff in the direction of free trade. Both the members named declared that the government had failed to redeem the pledges given by the leaders, and both promised to do what they could to show Mr. Sifton that the tariff was not out of politics.

Mr. Oliver does not have much respect for Mr. Sifton nor yet for Mr. Blair. He voted against the Yukon bill and opposed the Crow's Nest dam. He has no confidence in the immigration policy of the minister of the interior. Mr. Richardson is also unfriendly to Mr. Sifton, and charges him with submission and subjection to the Canadian Pacific company. But both members are talking free trade to the farmers, not so much because they despise certain ministers as because they desire to remain in parliament. The government is not popular in the northwest. Mr. Oliver and Mr. Richardson consider that it is an easier task to make themselves popular than to make friends for the ministers.

Yet they are as much to blame as the government for the present tariff and its failures. They voted for the Fielding bill at every stage, and did nothing to modify it. They ought now to be willing to take their punishment with the ministers. The time for them to put in their protest was in the session of 1897. The place was the parliament of Canada.

DR. BETHUNE.

The defection of Dr. Bethune, M. P. for Victoria county, Nova Scotia, who was elected as a supporter of the late government and has taken a seat on the side of the Laurier government, is not a surprise. Dr. Bethune voted for the Yukon bill, and supported the government in all the measures of last year. It was known soon after the beginning of last session that he had made some sort of bargain with the party in power, which gave him the patronage of his county and his support. The transaction is probably not yet quite complete, as Dr. Bethune will hardly venture to contest Victoria again. In this province the coalition system and the deals which have grown out of it have made us tolerably familiar in local politics with the transaction of a member from the side out of power to the side in power. Such transactions are less common under the party system in Nova Scotia. The sentiment of the dominion parliament is not favorable to such betrayals of trust, though it does favor a strong measure of personal independence. In some way the comrades of a member are quick to discern the motive behind the change, and the opportunist has no standing either with the party he leaves or the one he joins.

THE CIRCUIT COURT.

Grand Jury Reports No Bill in the Case Against W. J. Dean.

The Cause of Hesse v. St. John Railway Company—Verdict for Plaintiff in Temple v. Western Assurance Co.

(From Wednesday's Daily Sun.)

The March St. John circuit court opened yesterday morning. Judge VanWart presiding.

The grand jury consists of James A. Estey, foreman; William Hawker, Ezekiel M. Shouell, William G. Raymond, Walter Wilson, Alfred B. Wetmore, Edward F. Law, Nathaniel C. Scott, Alexander A. Watson, Ward C. Pitts, John W. Phillips, William F. Court, John R. Vaughan, Thomas S. Shinn, James V. Russell, James Dillon, Henry Flanagan, G. Ernest Fairweather, Alfred C. Blair, Harold Chimo, D. F. Brown, James Collins, Henry A. Harvey, Daniel N. Vanwart.

The special jury summoned for the Hesse case are: David H. Hesse, William P. Court, John S. Armstrong, Michael W. Gaudet, William D. Baskin, Charles McLaughlin, William E. Vroom, C. D. Trueman, Edward Lantula, B. R. Macaulay, James C. Robertson, Thomas Klockham, Henry A. Austin, E. B. Ketchum.

The petit jury is composed of: Wm. Davidson, Edwin Peters, Harry Clark, Charles F. Gillespie, J. Fred Watson, David Hesse, Jr., Charles Y. Delury, Edward H. S. Flood, Barton Gandy, W. A. Pennington, Stephen S. Thorne, William Crawford, George A. Horton, Joseph W. Hazlehurst, G. Gordon Boyne, John F. Morrison, Clarence W. DeForest, Robert Seely, Edgar H. Fairweather, Herbert B. Schofield, Theodore H. Estabrooks.

In charging the grand jury his honor said that the case against Wm. J. Dean was not of very great importance except to the parties. If the language was used in the sense attributed to it by Hon. Mr. Dunn there was no doubt it would be libelous, but it was for the jury to say, not how Mr. Dunn took it, but in what sense reasonable men would understand it. It might be said that the judge, Judge VanWart, is not fit to be a judge. Which words he thought were no reflection on his character, but meant that he had not the capacity to fill the office. Such a construction might be placed on Mr. Dean's words, and then they could not be libelous.

The grand jury retired, and after a short absence returned with "No Bill." His honor said he would not discharge them, but they need not attend again unless they should receive notice.

When the special jury was called Mr. Pugsley took the objection that there was no special jury. One had been summoned in November last and since then a court had intervened, at which the plaintiff in the case withdrew the record and entered it anew. Therefore the jury ceased to exist. He made the objection, but would not argue the case at present.

Judge VanWart said he would note the objection and allow the jury to be called.

The docket is as follows:
1. Jury Causes, Remanet.
2. Temple v. the Great Western Insurance Co.—William Pugsley vs. New.
3. Gault v. Morrison—Hamilton & Hamilton.
4. Hesse v. St. John Railway Co.—R. P. Gulsley.
5. Clark v. Mills—C. A. McDonald.
6. Hesse v. the City of St. John—J. B. Baxter vs. H. McLean.

Non Jury Causes, Remanet.
1. Appling v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.
2. Bell v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.
3. Jones v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.
4. North Queensland Insurance Co. v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.
5. Jones v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.
6. North Queensland Insurance Co. v. Palmer—H. H. McLean.

Dr. Pugsley, Q. C. in the Hesse case, stated that Manager Nelson had been telegraphed for and would be in the city on the 26th inst. He asked to have the case set down for that date.

A. L. Palmer, Q. C. who appeared in circuit for the first time in twenty years, objected to the application being made unless supported by affidavits and the productions of the telegrams.

The hearing of the application, stood over until this morning at the opening of court.

Judge VanWart then insisted that the docket should be proceeded with in the afternoon, as St. John was the only place in the province where the first day was wasted.

It involves the largest amount of damages ever asked in a court in this province. Once in Charlotte county, in the case of Kerr v. Thompson a verdict of \$25,000 was returned by the jury. This was an action brought against a physician for negligence in attending the plaintiff, whereby serious injuries occurred. Although the jury gave the large verdict it was subsequently reduced to a much smaller amount. In St. John in only one case has a verdict amounting to \$10,000 been given. That was in the case of Stevenson v. the Western Extension railway. On other occasions verdicts of \$5,000 and \$4,000 have been given. Bearing this in mind it will be readily seen that the damages of \$100,000, asked by Mr. Hesse for damages received, are far in excess of any asked in previous suits.

A very long discussion took place over the application made by Messrs. McLean and Pugsley, Q. C. for postponement until 25th inst., at which day it is expected Manager Nelson of the defendant company will return to the city from Jamaica, where he has been spending the winter for the benefit of his health.

A. L. Palmer, Q. C. and R. F. Pugsley, Q. C. for plaintiff, were willing that the case should stand until next Monday. As the plaintiff's case will be taken at least a week it would not be closed before Mr. Nelson's return. This offer was made conditional upon the payment by the defendants of the costs of plaintiff's witnesses remaining here.

After consideration the defendants declined to accept these terms, and the case consequently stands for this morning.

Another point of great importance was discussed. Defendants obtained commissions for an examination of witnesses in the States. Considerable evidence was taken under oath, the result of which, plaintiff claims, is favorable to him. Some time ago, on the ground of alleged delay, plaintiff obtained an order of Judge McLeod requiring the commissions to be returned on or before 7th March. When that day arrived the commissions were not returned, nor are they here yet. On a recent argument in Fredericton the statement was made that they were not returned by reason of the delay given by the defendants' counsel to the defendants' commission. Yesterday Mr. McLean said that the real reason was that the commissioner could not return the papers unless first paid the enormous fee of \$24.

Ex-Judge Palmer offered that the plaintiff's commissioner would join in the return of the commission without insisting on the prior payment of his fees, and would accept the decision of the court afterwards as to what he should be paid. He contended that before the application for postponement could be granted the defendants were in contempt of court for disobedience of Judge McLeod's order, and that they would have to purge the contempt.

With reference to the right of the plaintiff to use evidence obtained by defendants' commission the counsel for plaintiff cited Gordon v. Fuller, 5 U. C. R. (O. S.) 474.

(From Thursday's Daily Sun.)

In the circuit court yesterday morning in the case of Hesse v. the city of St. John, the counsel addressed the jury at some length, and Judge Vanwart submitted several questions to them to answer, as to whether the plaintiff was injured by falling through the sidewalk; whether the city improperly constructed the sidewalk and used defective material in its construction; and whether it allowed the sidewalk to remain improperly built. An answer in the affirmative to the first question was given by all, but in the others two of the jurors held the city to blame and five did not. A verdict was, therefore, given for the defendant. J. B. Baxter for the plaintiff and Recorder Sturges for the city.

The statement that the city had offered to make a settlement in this case, was incorrect. There was no offer on the part of the defendants, but the plaintiff was willing to accept \$400.

In the Hesse case, upon notice for trial, A. L. Palmer, Q. C. asked for the special jury to be called. Mr. Pugsley, Q. C. then stated that the defendants challenge the array, and H. H. McLean read the challenge, which was on the ground of the challenge were that the jury was struck by the secretary of the municipality for the November circuit.

They attended that circuit, and afterwards this record was withdrawn, and the case entered anew. The contention, therefore, is that the jury was only summoned for that circuit and cannot act in this one.

This challenge was supplemented by a second application made by Mr. Pugsley, asking that if the judge declined against the challenge to make an order for the case to be tried by the ordinary panel. The judge, Mr. Pugsley contended, had authority to do this under the statute. Mr. Pugsley read an affidavit of Mr. McLean in which similar objections to the jury as made in the challenge were stated. It is not desirable in the interests of justice, it was claimed, that a jury struck so long ago as November should try the case. Mr. Pugsley entered into a lengthy argument in support of the application, and the judge finally directed that counsel for the plaintiff be given until this morning at 10 o'clock to answer the application.

Both the special and the petit juries were ordered to attend at that hour.

SONS OF ENGLAND.

OTTAWA, March 16.—The Grand Lodge Sons of England elected officers today as follows: Supreme grand president Dr. Hodgetts of Toronto; supreme grand vice-president, Fred Cook of Ottawa, representing Kensington lodge, New Glasgow, N. S.; supreme treasurer, B. H. Enchcliffe of Toronto; supreme grand secretary, J. W. Carter of Toronto.

The congregation of Leinster street Baptist church has extended a call to the Rev. Mr. Smith of London.

NOVA SCOTIA NEWS.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 14.—The str. Vancouver has been ordered to remain another day waiting for the mails from the Orient.

The question of subsidies was dropped by the boards of trade conference today, owing to the wide difference of opinion. The following compromise resolution was adopted unanimously:

"Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, until the initiation of the fast Atlantic service the winter mail steamship service between the United Kingdom and Canada should have its western terminus at a port on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, and that in the contract for the performance of such service to be entered into by the government and steamship company, while it should be stipulated that the western terminal ports should be in Canada, there should be no provision obliging the company's steamship to proceed to any other port than that at which the mails are to be landed."

HALIFAX, N. S., March 14.—A cablegram received here yesterday from Cape Town, announced the arrival at that port of the ship Treasurer, of Economy, Capt. Knowlton, and the drowning of Howard Holmes, son of Mr. Fulton Beverly, formerly of St. John. Holmes was about fifteen, and was Mrs. Beverly's only son by her first marriage. He joined the ship at New York a few weeks ago on his first voyage. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved mother and sisters.

A daughter of A. E. McLeod, who has been attending Acadia College, has been very ill with typhoid fever, and it was thought last week that she could not recover. Mrs. McLeod has been with her during her illness, and Mr. McLeod and his other daughters went over on Wednesday. Word was received last night that the disease had taken a favorable turn.

A delegation, consisting of Mayor Day, Superintendent Ackland, and Councillor Fullerton went to Moncton yesterday to confer with Mr. Pottenger with regard to through freight rates.

It is reported that A. E. McLeod and D. A. Hume are about starting a wholesale grocery business here. HALIFAX, N. S., March 14.—A landmark of Halifax was swept away by fire last night. The building was destroyed. This building was erected forty-nine years ago by the Sons of Temperance and was called Temperance hall. It cost \$22,000, and was sold fifteen years ago to the Young Men's Literary society for \$4,000. It was a landmark of Halifax, and was the only building of its kind in the city. It was the only building of its kind in the city. It was the only building of its kind in the city.

In a letter to at present living Master Mercer of the Labrador, states ship's physician to the passengers, adds, did much for the passengers. Dr. Sanfey, of the ship, states the ship was all winter.

The master of the E. Peter Pitts, who heard of his sister's death, was a sufferer for over with kidney disease in his death at the age of 58. He was a sufferer for over with kidney disease in his death at the age of 58. He was a sufferer for over with kidney disease in his death at the age of 58.

HALIFAX, March 15.—The Dominion Cotton Company became the subject of an animated discussion in the legislature today. The company, in response to the request of the company, agreed to ask legislation to reduce the taxation on their property, compared with what other manufacturers are charged. The proposal was to fix their real estate here at a valuation of \$30,000 and subject that to the current rate, following the practice of other cities. The company's property was valued at \$30,000 and subject that to the current rate, following the practice of other cities. The company's property was valued at \$30,000 and subject that to the current rate, following the practice of other cities.

The company's bill passed by a good majority and they are partially exempt. Some persons broke into the store of Chase, Campbell & Co. at Port Williams on Sunday night of last week and stole a quantity of clothing. A reward of five dollars is offered for the discovery of the culprits.

A White Ribbon society has been organized in the Sunday schools of Cornwallis. At Cascaud seventy-one members of the school took the pledge for life. A large number of the members of the school at Canning joined the society.

Arthur Harris of Kentville has purchased five draft horses in Placou parties in Cornwallis.

Mrs. Beckwith of Canning, who left for Fredericton a short time ago, where her husband, Major Beckwith of the 88th battalion is attending military school, came to Starr's Point on Saturday to attend the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. John Starr.

A large new blue organ has been put into the Methodist church at Canning.

LOCAL.

If what the retail whole tea is settled down to the retail stores.

Thos. Dyson, knocked down by street, Carleton, and his nose broken home in the afternoon.

Elder George, been in the city establishment of left Wednesday. He has formed a here.

The death of James A. Brogan, Charlotte street. Mr. Brogan concurred on Charlott street, until his retirement a few widow and two ceased, who was.

A Riverside, respondent written Thomas Lounsbury, on Wednesday, fifty-four years, teamed by a large and friends.

The new school of Weymouth, he Capt. A. W. Blair will place her in Inland trade. Mr. Church Point has load lumber for.

John Busted, and was drowned day. His body steed was 55 years in the employ company for near was well known, was in Boston.

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