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**Semi-Weekly Telegraph**  
ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 15, 1904.

**WHERE DOES THE CITY STAND?**

Harbor improvements are in the doldrums. Where does the city stand? It is a party to certain agreements with the C. P. R. In the event of that corporation failing to carry out its part of these agreements, the city has a means of redress. The C. P. R. has once more informed St. John flatly and plainly that it will do nothing. It will build no wharves. And it will not guarantee interest on the cost of wharves which the city builds unless it receives another large concession and is permitted to hold all of the Sand Point harbor frontage which it now occupies or controls. Mr. McNicoll, approached by the Mayor, in regard to the matter of building at least one wharf as speedily as possible, replied that the company did not care to enter upon any such arrangement at present. The C. P. R., then, stands pat. "What we have, we hold," is the dictum of the company's officers, and they add: "We will not build; we will not co-operate with the city in building—unless we can get another slice of harbor property."

This attitude, like the previous attitude of Mr. McNicoll, is unfortunate. It lends color to the statement, frequently heard in St. John, that the C. P. R. wants everything in sight. If any such thing as possible, the city alone can afford to spend no more money for harbor improvements. It has done enough. But the city can ill afford to wait another tide. It does not desire to face another and yet another year when steamers will be prevented from coming to this port by the cry—true or false—that the docking facilities are insufficient. Possibly the C. P. R. imagines that, in these circumstances, the people of St. John can be "held up"—that they can be forced to come to the company's terms. If any such belief exists it is extremely ill-founded.

Whatever is to happen in the future, it would be well for the aldermen to discover just where the city stands in regard to the control of all the Sand Point property. If any one of the agreements made heretofore with the C. P. R. is defective that fact should be known. Any agreement, with any company, made in the future, will be regarded as of uncertain value as long as the full validity of any existing agreement is open to question.

A movement is on foot among the aldermen which should at least dissipate some of the uncertainty which marks the relations between the city and the railroad company. Alderman Macrae has suggested on several occasions that the city pay to the company the sum of \$50,000 and resume control of berths Nos. 3 and 4 which can be done by giving a year's notice. The city already has power to collect wharfage charges at berths Nos. 1 and 2, and has refrained from exercising it because heretofore it was thought unwise to collect at two berths and impose no charges at the others. But if control of Nos. 3 and 4 were resumed, as the aldermen say can be done under the agreement by the payment of \$50,000, the city could then put upon the winter port business such charges as are collected, say, at the government pier.

It is likely this movement will take form at the next council meeting. At the same time the aldermen might well consider the whole question of the future of the harbor. The value of all existing agreements should be made known. It may be thought advisable to petition the government to nationalize the port, and some of the aldermen believe that the government would consider any reasonable proposal which the city might make along that line. Certainly one railroad company, even though it is the principal freight carrier to St. John at present, must not be permitted to monopolize terminal space or to stand in the city's way when a general policy of harbor development is adopted. The transportation commission when it was first impressed upon the aldermen the importance of guarding the harbor against railway monopoly. The commissioners' advice is reinforced by recent developments.

**HIS USEFULNESS GONE.**

The debate Friday in the House, regarding the Dandonald-Fisher episode, made clear the important features of a controversy which will lead inevitably to the resignation or dismissal of the officer commanding the forces. When the government took the matter up yesterday it was not with the purpose of dealing with Lord Dandonald, or deciding what should be done in his case. That will be done in

another way, and without needless hesitation or delay. The purpose yesterday was to make clear the position of a member of the cabinet who had been placed on his defence. Two points may be emphasized as a result of the proceedings in the Commons: Hon. Mr. Fisher's conduct had been seriously misrepresented; Lord Dandonald's usefulness in Canada is gone. No matter what his cause for dissatisfaction with the department he served, the course followed by Lord Dandonald in criticizing a cabinet minister in the presence of his subordinates, at a banquet table—before he had sought redress for his fancied grievance in the proper quarter and in the proper manner—was indefensible.

From Lord Dandonald's speech the public was led to infer that Mr. Fisher had usurped the authority of another minister and used it improperly, for political reasons, to further the appointment of an incompetent party man at the expense of a competent officer of the other political faith. How different the facts are will be seen from a perusal of the extended account of the debate which appears on another page. To tell the story briefly, Mr. Fisher was acting Minister of Militia, spoke and wrote for Sir Frederick Borden at the latter's request, and simply prevented the improper appointment of a man who was not fitted to be a major of militia, and did not desire the position, but had been put forward for political purposes. The disclosure of these facts clears Mr. Fisher from the charges recklessly and unjustly lodged against him at a military dinner by the officer commanding the militia and bound by every soldierly precedent to set a good example for the men of the service.

It looks as though Lord Dandonald's pique over his discovery that he was not independent of the government of Canada had made him an easy victim of men in search of a club with which to belabor the government. Lord Dandonald's position is worse than had been guessed. It was known when he appealed to a banquet audience in the fashion related, that he could not be right. That he was so entirely without excuse as he is now proved to have been, could not well be suspected.

It may be that he, and those who gave him encouragement, behind his inefficiency and his general popularity would prevent the government from taking the grip with him when he attempted to rule where his duty imposed only obedience. If any such belief prevailed it was thoroughly dissipated yesterday. No self-respecting government could permit an officer in Lord Dandonald's position either to carry matters with a high hand, or, failing that, to flagrantly violate his duty by such a speech to his intimates.

Lord Dandonald either believed himself strong enough to dictate, or he was tired of his occupation in Canada. He will be going home to England before long. Every one will regret that he made such a lesson necessary. No Canadian can well regret the government's announced determination to vindicate its dignity and its authority. So far as his official life in Canada goes Lord Dandonald has simply committed suicide.

**CHURCH UNION.**

An incident which aroused much favorable comment during the recent session of the Presbyterian assembly was the visit of an influential delegation from the Anglican church, and the cordial greetings exchanged by the representatives of the two great denominations. Indeed it was this visitation which prompted the assembly to amend its resolution on the subject of church union, so that it would embrace consideration of union not only between the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregational churches, but open the way for conference with the representatives of other churches as well. The difficulties in the way of organic union were not minor, indeed, but the spirit of fraternity prevailed.

Now comes the announcement that the Anglican synod of Toronto last week unanimously adopted a resolution approving of church union in the abstract. The Mail and Empire report says: "The matter was introduced by Rev. Dr. Langtry, an earnest champion of the movement, who detailed the work that had been done along the lines of union. Hon. S. H. Blake, in seconding the resolution, declared that they all had a sincere desire for greater union. He felt that the time had arrived when Christians should sink their little differences and look to one common Lord and Master."

The resolution adopted was as follows: "That this Synod offers its hearty congratulations to the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational brethren, on the prospect of the speedy attainment of the union of these three communions in one body. They feel that such a consummation will be a proclamation to the world of the evil of that spirit of division which has shattered the Christian host—has alienated brethren—is a direct contradiction of the will of our Blessed Lord. "And this Synod earnestly prays the Great Head of the Church so to pour out the spirit of brotherly union and concord upon all Christian people that the union for which our Blessed Lord so earnestly prayed, may be speedily consummated—that the world may see it, and believe that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."

lan. "This conference," says the Winnipeg Telegram, "will mark one of the historic stages in the work of the church in the West, inasmuch as this will be the last conference in which all the Methodist ministers of the West will meet in one annual gathering. So great has been the development of the branches of the church in this conference that it has been deemed advisable to have three conferences where one existed before, and the division accordingly has been made at some of the sessions during the week."

The more pressing the work becomes the greater will be the need of united action among the churches, in order, as Principal Patrick said the other day, that we may have no "wild west" in Canada. But it is not alone in the west that advantages will be reaped when the present division of effort gives place to a concentration of forces laboring for the good of the people.

**THE "LITTLE CANADIAN" VIEW.**

The Toronto Telegram takes a "little Canadian" view of the proposal to appoint a Canadian as commander of the forces in Canada. The Telegram's Canadian attitude is expressed in the following: "The great question with a Canadian would be the question of brother and sister. A Canadian's sense of duty to himself and family would come into conflict with his sense of duty to the volunteer service. There is no such conflict in Lord Dandonald's case, and he is free, as no Canadian could be, to indulge in the virtue of plain speaking. The partisan tyranny that resents independence of word, thought or action may throw Lord Dandonald into the street, but Lord Dandonald has some place else to go. A Canadian General Officer Commanding could have no real independence of word, thought or action, and will always be too subservient to the partisan tyranny that casts him into the street, and he would have no place else to go."

This is objectionable in that it asserts the belief that a Canadian commander would necessarily be of meaner spirit and more limited usefulness than a British commander. That is not sound Canadian doctrine. A British officer and a Canadian officer would have exactly the same liberty and exactly the same duties and limitations. Neither can set himself up as superior to the government which appoints him. The Dandonald incident argues strongly against British officers as such, or against or in favor of Canadian officers as such. British or Canadian the commanding officer will not be permitted to make of the militia a domain in which to exercise his independent authority.

It should not be difficult to secure for the post a Canadian entirely capable of filling the office with wisdom and large usefulness. It would be easier to find a British officer with a more imposing war record than most Canadians, but it has been difficult to find and keep one who understands Canada and Canadians and guides himself accordingly. The Telegram's comment is somewhat in line with that of certain London journals which are now engaged in lecturing us upon our impertinence in bearing with a government which declines to permit Lord Dandonald to enlarge the circle of his authority at will. The commanding officer is great soldier—but he is going the way of most of his predecessors who would not play unless they could have it all their own way.

**MURDERERS REALLY HANG THEMSELVES.**

It appears that Mr. Henri Bourassa is displeased because a man named Belanger was executed for murder at Sainte-Scholastique last week. It is Mr. Bourassa's whim to describe the murderer as a victim and the hangman as a drunken assassin. The Nationaliste, Mr. Bourassa's organ, prints an article dated at Sainte-Scholastique, a part of which is as follows: "A murder (referring to the hanging) was committed here under the most shameful circumstances. While under the influence of liquor an Englishman named Radcliffe, who arrived at Sainte-Scholastique last Thursday, killed a farmer of St. Eustache. . . . Horror of horrors! more than 300 persons witnessed the murder and no one made an attempt to rescue the unfortunate man. . . . Radcliffe was paid by another party to commit this assassination. . . . It is said that he spent the following day in drink, which he purchased with the price of blood—about fifty dollars," etc.

Mr. Bourassa's view is that the hangman is not an admirable character. In that he is no doubt correct. But he evidently desires to convey the impression that swaggers, the murderer, was a martyr. Probably the Nationaliste's version of the hanging will arouse some maudlin sympathy for the murderer among the more ignorant of its subscribers, but the propriety of so distorting the gravest penalty of the law must be doubted. The hangman is no more than the rope. The law kills. The hangman is but an instrument.

From the tenor of the article, a part of which has been reproduced, one infers that the author would have been pleased had the spectators intervened to save the murderer. It is but a step further to say that he was perfectly justified in committing the murder for which he was condemned, and that the community in which he lived should have invited him to a banquet and bestowed upon him a purse of gold and a diamond ring. If Mr. Bourassa's journal desires to encourage murder it is for the authorities to say to what length it shall be permitted to go. A hangman is a very shocking spectacle. A hangman is a very popular character. But the spectacle and the hangman may be avoided if the Belangers will but think twice before they go about shortening the lives of their neighbors and thereby proving the truth of the saying that to commit murder in Canada is to commit suicide as well. It was Belanger who was solely responsible for

the shocking spectacle at Sainte-Scholastique. The Nationaliste should take care lest it encourage some other Belanger to make more work for the hangman.

**ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY.**

It appears that Canada is to be invited to another Alaska boundary tribunal—if the Americans can arrange it. The New York Sun discovers that we "are manifesting a disposition to maintain proprietary rights in Hudson Bay." That is to say, Canada is manifesting a disposition to hold and profit by her own territory. There would seem to be nothing surprising or improper in such a proceeding, nor is it clear why the Sun, which may remember the Panama canal and similar transactions, should now attempt to question Canada's sovereignty over Hudson Bay. The Sun discusses our title, and adds: "The Laurier bill proposes a license fee to be enforced against all alien whaling in those waters or using the Canadian shore for trying out blubber obtained at sea beyond the three mile limit. The mission of the Neptune is to ascertain the conditions and the extent of American activities in the vicinity. The Canadian attitude opens a possibility that another commission will be necessary at no distant date. If Canada shows a strong inclination to stand by her claims, a highly interesting situation is likely to result."

"A highly interesting situation," then, will soon confront us. The Sun's cool assumption that Canada would consent to another reference to "an impartial tribunal" in this matter would be amusing did it not represent American jingo opinion. It may be assumed that the action of the Dominion government is taken not to establish sovereignty—which is already established—but to prevent the possibility of any such question as the Sun seeks to raise. In the case of Alaska our neighbors had taken possession of certain territory when no one was looking, and possession was the strongest point they had to urge in favor of a tribunal such as was appointed.

It was the American humor under the circumstances to say that there was "nothing to arbitrate." That will be Canada's position in regard to Hudson Bay. And as arbitration will be unnecessary, there certainly will be no shadow of excuse for another commission of "jurists of repute," the American members of which, like Senators Lodge and Turner, might be politicians of tall-twisting records, pledged in advance to find for their countrymen. "Once bitten to begin with," will be Canada's position in regard to any such discussion as the Sun affects to think necessary.

**WARNING TO MR. HAYS.**

As a result of the inquiry by Judge Winchester, into the charge that Canadian engineers were ignored in connection with the survey on the Grand Trunk Pacific, Mr. G. A. Kyle, the chief of staff on the division west of Winnipeg has resigned, and such papers as the Toronto Globe and Montreal Herald are tendering some pointed advice to General Manager Hays.

Mr. Kyle was the man who wrote this to his American friends: "We are in the unpleasant position where it is advisable to fill minor positions with natives, and are, therefore, rather handicapped." The Montreal Herald is of opinion that some other American engineers have adopted the same principle as that which actuated Mr. Kyle, with the result "that they have looked after their own friends from across the border for the fat jobs, but have been unfortunately compelled to employ 'natives' for minor positions." And it will not be surprised if they find it useful to change their point of view, or if more "natives" should be employed, "perhaps in even better than minor positions."

The Toronto Globe sharply denounces Mr. Kyle, and among other things says: "The Transcontinental Railway is an out-and-out Canadian undertaking. Canadian statements formulated the project, the Canadian parliament gave it legal effect, and Canadian credit was used to float it. It is not, therefore, necessary, nor is it wise, to charge General Manager Hays with personal responsibility for Mr. Kyle's indiscretion, but he should profit by the occurrence just the same. He may as well give all his subordinates to understand clearly that Canadians are in no mood to overlook such indiscretions as that which has just been exposed."

This is plain talk. Mr. Hays and his American engineers may not like it, but they will probably be wise enough not to publish the fact.

**WAR FINANCE.**

Reference was made recently to the extraordinary accumulation of gold by the Bank of France. A curious phase of the financial situation arising from the war is that Japan's gold reserve is being drawn upon to keep Russia's gold balance at Paris from becoming exhausted. A Paris financial review traces the movement of gold in this way:—

"It has been pointed out that the gold shipments from Japan to the United States have been by the express, have reached 140,000,000 francs. Now the United States has used this gold to pay for the American participation in the Japanese loan. But as it happened, the London market was in a position where it was forced to send gold to Paris; the course of exchange proved that. To avoid draining its own gold reserves, London, instead of taking for itself the gold about to leave the United States, directed it to Paris. The precise result, in fact, as Paris was then establishing a Russian gold credit on the basis of its loan, Japan's gold has been placed at the disposal of the Russian government."

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Norfolk Suits,	2.50	3.50	4.50		
Sailor Suits,	0.75	1.00	1.50	A matchless showing of	
Vest Suits,	3.00	4.00	5.00	Boys' Washable suits of \$1.50 to \$5.00	

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the Franco-Prussian war of 1871. When it became necessary to pay a great war indemnity to Prussia, France drew on its London credits to make the payment at Berlin. London, to avoid depleting its own supply of gold, drew on English credits outstanding in Germany. Thus German bankers found much of the gold paid to the Prussian government on French account.

While it is conceded that the fall of Port Arthur and a reverse to General Kuropatkin would depress Russia's credit considerably, Bradstreet says that "while the foreign markets, especially Paris, have manifested continued uneasiness as a result of the Japanese movements and the threatened danger of Port Arthur, the latest mail advices from abroad would indicate that the financial position of the Russian government may be considered satisfactory, and that the Paris market, thanks to the supplies of gold received from New York, is in a position in which support could be readily extended to Russian securities in case of additional successes by the Japanese."

**ALL TOGETHER.**

With scarcely two weeks remaining to complete preparations for the tercentenary celebration not an hour should be wasted, and everyone who has become responsible for any part of the work should do his utmost to keep pace with the hardest workers whose efforts will mean so much for the success of the celebration. Only by united and sustained effort during the few remaining days can the festival be made to realize the best that has been planned. The meeting last evening showed that most promising progress has been made, but the feeling was expressed that all interested in the movement should remember how near the opening day now is, and how essential it is that promptness and energy mark the work of everyone pledged to make the closing week of June one to be long recalled as memorable by citizens and visitors alike.

From this date forward the newspapers of these provinces should contain advertisements and news articles giving details of the celebration programme, in order that everyone may know how extensive and how entertaining and how interesting will be the events which are coming.

Visitors will be treated to a spectacle such as was never witnessed in this part of Canada. While June 24 will see the landing of Champlain, and the ceremonies attending that picturesque arrival, and will be visitors' day par excellence, each of the other days will have attractions warranted to bring sight-seers from every town and village in the Maritime Provinces. The committee planning the entertainment has prepared a programme broad and varied enough to appeal to all. St. John can be seen to advantage never better than late in June, and this year it will be in holiday attire. There was never undertaken here an event which enlisted the active aid of so many organizations as has the tercentenary. The result will be a festival which the city should have cause to regard with justifiable pride.

Naturally considerable work remains to be done during the few days left. "All together" should be the watchword from now on. The result will well repay the effort.

**EARL AND LADY GREY.**

Earl Grey, who it is said will succeed the Earl of Minto as Governor-General of Canada, is a member of a distinguished family. He is a brother of Lady Minto, and has visited this country. The first Earl Grey was a commanding officer in the first American war. The present Earl was born in 1851, and has had both political and administrative experience. He was administrator of Rhodesia in 1894-97, and since 1890 has been Lord Lieutenant of

Northumberland. He has been a director of the British South Africa Company since 1898. His estate in Northumberland contains 17,000 acres. In 1890 he published a book entitled Hubert Hervey, a Memoir. M. A. P., of which T. P. O'Connor is editor, in its issue of June 4 has the following very interesting sketch of Countess Grey:—

Lord and Lady Grey and their daughters have arrived in London. Lady Grey was Miss Holford, one of the talented daughters of the late Mr. Robert Holford, of Weston Birt, Gloucestershire, and Dorchester House, London. Her marriage with Lord Grey—then Mr. Albert Grey—took place in 1877, and she has one son and several daughters. In appearance Lady Grey is of medium height, with soft brown hair and eyes, and a face of great intelligence. She and her sisters, Lady Morley and Mrs. Robert Benson, were a notable group of girls, and, as married women, have made their position in the clever, exclusive set in London society. They are all rich, and they all have artistic tastes, which they are able and willing to gratify. They go in for the picturesque style of dress, wear rich and curious stuffs, and much artistic jewelry. As someone aptly remarked: "Lady Grey and her sisters are never commonplace; they wear old lace on their serge frocks." Lady Grey possesses many sterling qualities. When her husband was Administrator of Rhodesia, during the troublous times of '96, she shared his uncertain fortunes and the comparative discomforts of Government House, Bulawayo. She is devoted to Howick, her home in Northumberland, and when there, goes in for an outdoor life and open-air amusements. When in London, she has, on several occasions, acted as hostess to her brother, Captain Holford, at Dorchester House. Lady Grey possesses many jewels, and her pearls are of great value.

**A SERIOUS MATTER.**

The fact, which appears to have been clearly established on Saturday night, that incendiaries are abroad, and that they have been responsible for at least some of the recent fires in this city, naturally causes grave apprehension.

The case was quite serious enough when insurance rates were advanced and it became necessary to improve the water supply, and increase the equipment of the fire department; but when to this state of affairs is added a degree of apprehension based on the fact that some fires have been deliberately set, and others of like nature may occur at any time, the need of a searching inquiry, and of sleepless vigilance on the part of the authorities, is made very clear.

It is highly creditable to the fire department that Saturday night's blaze, in a group of wooden buildings, with a high wind prevailing, was not more disastrous. As it is, the loss is heavy, and falls upon persons who could ill afford such a sacrifice.

Not for years has the city suffered such a succession of fires, and though quite a number were extinguished before serious damage was done, yet the aggregate loss during the last few weeks has been large.

Ordinarily, St. John is an orderly city, and requires, or at least possesses, a smaller force of police officers, in proportion to area, than most cities of equal population. It may now occur to the authorities, in view of the apparent risk from incendiarism, that the night patrol should be strengthened. It may be, of course, that the guilty parties are apt to be apprehended, and punished as they deserve; but so long as they remain at large the danger and the sense of insecurity will remain.

**NOTE AND COMMENT.**

The trouble is that British officers commanding the Canadian militia are apt to entertain the delusion that they are appointed to command the government. The delusion is never more than temporary.

The parents of George Gee, the Carleton county murderer, have joined the Primitive Baptists. The prisoner may fol-

low their example. The girl cannot. She was murdered. The worst fact remains.

Samuel de Champlain's ship takes form at Indianstown where the Indian canoes were the only craft in 1604. It will be interesting to see the ship of 300 years ago check by jowl with a modern man-of-war.

The Morocco bandit, who holds an Englishman and an American in ransom, denies Great Britain, the United States, France, and the Sultan of Morocco, and at this writing appears likely to get his price and escape punishment if he does not enlarge his political influence.

The tercentenary committee might push along a good work by offering a prize for the best-dressed shop window during the celebration. As a good ad, would accompany the winning of the prize the leading merchants might take a keen interest in the competition.

There has been widespread misrepresentation as to the causes in which Lord Dandonald found excuse for his Montreal speech. The facts are published now. It will be useless hereafter to represent Lord Dandonald as a martyr sacrificed by a partisan minister.

The Assembly is over, but it has left its mark upon St. John. No recent gathering of the kind has so impressed the public. Some personal sketches, and something about the impression St. John made upon the visitors will be found on another page this morning.

General Kuropatkin is still lingering on. The main force of General Kuroki appears to be menacing the chief Russian position in the north. The relief of Port Arthur by Kuropatkin appears to be no more than the dream of a St. Petersburg writer officially inspired.

The C. P. R. appears to interpret its agreement with the city as an instrument intended to give the company proprietary rights over the harbor. When that agreement was made St. John had visions of an improved C. P. R. with double the present amount of rolling stock upon this division, carrying freight to wharves built by the company.

The grain shipping business appears to be very dull at present. The Montreal Gazette says: "There has been no improvement in the demand for ocean grain during the past week; in consequence business has continued as dull as ever, so much so that vessel owners are now considering if they will withdraw some of the tonnage from the port. It has been rumored that some freight was offered to a British port free of charge, but notwithstanding this great inducement, the vessel in question was obliged to buy coal for ballast. There is an easy feeling in the market, and some of the present rates would likely be shaded for vessels that require grain for ballast."

The following, from the Winnipeg Free Press, illustrates the rapid development of that city: The aggregate cost of building for which permits have been issued by the city building inspectors this year has passed the three million dollar mark already. The comparative statement of permits and buildings submitted by the building inspector to the fire, water and light committee last evening was as follows:

June 6. Permits. Buildings.	Aggregate Cost.
1900 . . . . .	181 . . . . . \$ 689,950
1901 . . . . .	277 . . . . . 874,795
1902 . . . . .	385 . . . . . 1,065,713
1903 . . . . .	424 . . . . . 2,145,450
1904 . . . . .	788 . . . . . 3,334,150

The permits for the new C. P. R. buildings and improvements have not as yet been issued, but the plans are now in the hands of the building inspector and he is ready to prepare permits for them.