

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

COMPLETE EXONERATION.

Dispassionate perusal of the report of Mr. Commissioner Stevens covering the enquiry into the affairs of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company and certain construction contracts held by the Nova Scotia Construction Company will convey to the mind of the reader an outstanding fact and a strong impression. That fact is, that despite the lengths to which the present government and its agents, inspired by political animus, resorted in the effort to score conviction against members of the late Government or of the Valley Railway directorate, the commissioner completely exonerates all the members of Mr. Murray's administration and all the officials of the railway company. The impression that strikes one almost as forcibly as the fact already mentioned, is that the report is not at all the sort of document for which the members and supporters of the present government wished, or confidently expected to receive.

Before dealing with Commissioner Stevens' findings in the matter submitted to him, let us give passing attention to the attitude and disposition of the promoters of the enquiry through its whole length. Their sole desire was to "get" some member of Mr. Murray's Government. Hon. Mr. Murray and Hon. Mr. Baxter are the only gentlemen now in the Legislature who were members of the Government when the contracts under discussion were entered into, and it was against them that the promoters of the enquiry directed their efforts. It was upon them that the gas guns of the St. John Telegraph and Times were trained. It was not Mr. Tennant, Mr. Nagle or any other person who figured in the transaction forming the subject of the enquiry, that the Fosterites hoped to blacken and brand. Whether they were vindicated or convicted made little difference to those who hoped to manufacture political capital out of the whole affair. The political skins of Mr. Murray and Mr. Baxter were the trophies for which the snipers of the present government went gunning, and the avidity and zeal with which they pursued that quest cannot but have the effect of intensifying the chagrin and disappointment Commissioner Stevens' report will produce in their camp. This is plainly evident from perusal of the Telegraph's labored editorial of yesterday.

During the enquiry newspapers supporting the present provincial administration advanced with clamorous insistence certain claims which they held would be abundantly proved by the commissioner's findings. They prejudged the case and fixed upon the evil-doers all to their own satisfaction. Now that the commissioner has made his findings it is interesting to review the more persistent contentions of the Fosterite press and place beside each claim the commissioner's decision upon it.

The principal contention of this nature, and the one most frequently put forward, was that the public money under the control of the directors of the railway company had been improperly and dishonestly expended, and to establish or disprove this was the sole purpose of the enquiry. In fact the commissioner to Mr. Stevens directed him to ascertain "whether the public money under the control of the said directors, officials, contractors and subcontractors has been properly and honestly expended."

The commissioner's finding on this point only requires to be read to demonstrate the utter baselessness of the campaign of misrepresentation and slander directed against the railway directors and Murray Government in this regard. He says:

"THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN THIS INQUIRY, TO JUSTIFY ME IN FINDING, AND I DO NOT FIND THAT ANY OF THE PUBLIC MONIES OF THE PROVINCE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SAID BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE IMPROPERLY OR DISHONESTLY EXPENDED, AND THE SAME MAY BE SAID OF ALL OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS THEREUNDER."

It was also held and blazoned broad throughout the country by the press opposing the Murray administration, that the government of the day was responsible for the profits made by Mr. Tennant from the Nova Scotia Construction Co's contract for that contract could not have been put through at the figures for which it was given without the approval or connivance of members of the Government or of the railway directorate. This contention can also be disposed of by reference to the commissioner's report. He says: "I cannot come to the con-

clusion that there was any understanding between any member of the railway company, or of the Government with such company, (N. S. Construction Co.), or any one representing said company, that said company would receive the contract if other tenders of responsible concerns were lower than the tender of said construction company."

Amplifying this point the commissioner points out that in an effort to guarantee that the construction company would receive the contract Mr. Tennant attempted to make sure that the company's tender was lower or as low as any other tender put in for the work. To this end and to discourage other tenderers the impression was created that the construction company and the construction company only could receive the contract but that no members of the Government or none of the railway directors were party to this as also established by the commissioner when he says:

"There is not sufficient evidence to justify me in arriving at the conclusion that any member of the railway company or of the Government was in any way a party to this scoring for position."

Much was also made of a contribution by Mr. Tennant to a campaign fund and the press opposed to Mr. Murray and Hon. Mr. Baxter are the only gentlemen now in the Legislature who were members of the Government when the contracts under discussion were entered into, and it was against them that the promoters of the enquiry directed their efforts. It was upon them that the gas guns of the St. John Telegraph and Times were trained. It was not Mr. Tennant, Mr. Nagle or any other person who figured in the transaction forming the subject of the enquiry, that the Fosterites hoped to blacken and brand. Whether they were vindicated or convicted made little difference to those who hoped to manufacture political capital out of the whole affair. The political skins of Mr. Murray and Mr. Baxter were the trophies for which the snipers of the present government went gunning, and the avidity and zeal with which they pursued that quest cannot but have the effect of intensifying the chagrin and disappointment Commissioner Stevens' report will produce in their camp. This is plainly evident from perusal of the Telegraph's labored editorial of yesterday.

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Mr. Foster never had a thought of selling at par. The only gleam of light reaching him in his hour of sore distress was an offer of \$975,000, which he rejected as a mirage. And this same \$975,000 would have earned in the ten years a total interest of \$771,073, which amount being deducted from the actual payments leaves an interest loss of \$19,779. Looking at it the other way, New Brunswick is paying interest on \$15,000 which it never received but would have received if ordinary common sense business methods had been employed. And the six per cent. on this amount, added to the principal itself, represents an actual net loss to this province of: Interest, \$11,865; principal, \$15,000. Total \$26,865.

But what's a little matter of \$26,865?

KING'S COLLEGE.

There is considerable general interest manifested in the campaign on behalf of King's College. Inasmuch as this is the oldest colonial university in the Empire, it is natural that this should be. Other religious denominations maintain their colleges within these Maritime Provinces and certainly the Anglican communion in its own interest should uphold its college here, as well as these others. It is greatly to the well-being of that body that it should have a theological college for the training of maritime men in these Maritime Provinces for the ministry of that church. But local interest appears to have been renewed in this ancient institution of the University of King's College chiefly through its having established and successfully carried on for a number of years a law school in this city, which has among its graduates many of the leaders of the legal profession of our province. All good citizens will rejoice to learn that the appeal for financial assistance is meeting with such a generous response and that from indications the expectations of the friends of the institution will be realized.

It required a seven-column scare-head in The Telegraph to announce what W. P. Jones at his secret session thought of the evidence in the Valley Railway hearing. But three columns width and much smaller type proved sufficient in that same paper to introduce the verdict of the commissioner completely exonerating all those whom The Telegraph had already convicted. Perhaps, however, this was only done to save ink.

Speaking about bonds, The Standard yesterday inadvertently referred to the recent provincial issue as thirty-year instead of ten-year bonds. The comparisons made, however, hold good as the city of St. John has also offered a ten-year issue.

A BIT OF VERSE

STRAWS ON THE STREAM.
 Like straws upon the stream of Life
 Some, steered by wind and current,
 sailing free,
 Others, by eddies caught, swing round
 and round,
 Drift to the shallow marge, and run
 aground.
 Some caught by stick or stone are
 turned aside
 And down the narrow rapids try to
 ride.
 Some thread the pas and gain the wide
 or way.
 Others are tossed on drift-heaps—there
 to stay.
 Upon the bridge the gods stand in a
 row,
 To watch the straws come through
 the arch below.

A BIT OF FUN

Almost any man has an untold get-rich-quick scheme that looks as easy as getting money from home in a letter.

The woman who goes to church to exhibit her new bonnet has a scornful contempt for women who do not go at all.

MIXED METAPHORS.
 "The circuskeeper certainly gets his language mixed when he talks about his beasts. The other day he called his old lion Brutus the flower of the rock."

"That was all right. He merely meant Brutus was a dandy lion."—Baltimore American.

NICE LITTLE JOB FOR HIM.
 She—Oh, Jack, dear, I'm glad you've come. Father is so excited and disturbed. Do go in and calm him.
 He—Very well. But what's the matter with him?
 She—Why—er—I just told him you wanted to marry me.

TENDER MEMORIES.
 "Shut the door!" yelled the rough man. "Where were you raised, in a barn?" The man addressed meekly and silently complied, but the speaker, looking at him a moment later, observed that he was in tears. Going over to his victim, he apologized. "Oh, come," he said soothingly, "you should not take it to heart because I asked if you were raised in a barn."
 "That's it, that's it," sobbed the other man. "I was raised in a barn and it makes me homesick every time I hear an ass Bray."—Boston Transcript.

GASTORIA

For Infants and Children
 In Use For Over 30 Years
 Always bears the Signature of *Dr. H. H. H. H.*

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

"Yesterday me and Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooster thawed of a good idea to attack a crowd, being to pretend we had lost sumbings and start to look for it. Wich we did, wawking up and down the pavement with our heds bent away over, saying, Gosh, thata funny, I wonder ware it got to, it coodent of rolled far, it must be around sumwars, and different things."

And pritty soon a man with a green necktie and a hole in one shoe stopped and started to hunt with us, saying, What you hunting for, boys? Me and Puds and Leroy Shooster jest keeping on pretending to look for sumthing, me saying, I see it, no I dont, either.

Whoever finds it awt to get a big reward all rite, sed Puds. And me and him and Leroy and the man with the green tie and the hole in one shoe kept on hunting, and pritty soon 2 men came along cleeing the street and laid their brooms aganst the house and started to hunt too, and pritty soon after that a messenger boy with a turned up nose got off his bysickie and started to hunt with us, saying, Wats you looking for? Findings keepings?

Me and Puds and Leroy and the man with the green tie and the hole in one shoe and the 2 street cleeers jest keeping on hunting with our heds bent away over and moving our faces all around, me and Puds and Leroy saying every once in a while, There it is, no it aint. Wich every time we sed it the man with the green tie and the hole in one shoe and the 2 street cleeers picked up their brooms and started to sweep the street agen, and the messenger boy wawked away with the sent, and me and Puds and Leroy Shooster sat down on my bottom step in diskust.

Ill be darned, I sed.

Well wats you know about that, sed Puds.

G wizz, jiminy crickits, sed Leroy Shooster.

Enyboby that lawks about getting a reward for finding a sent is a darn fool, sed the man with the green tie and the hole in one shoe. And he wawked away looking as if he was sorry he ever stopped, and the 2 street cleeers picked up their brooms and started to sweep the street agen, and the messenger boy wawked away with the sent, and me and Puds and Leroy Shooster sat down on my bottom step in diskust.

FRANK BROWN HAS TWO-TAILED WILD CAT

Arrived in the City Yesterday from Little River with Uncommon Skin—Has Trapped Six Coons and Same Number of Cats.

Among the visitors to the city yesterday was Frank Brown of Little River, which is about three miles from St. Martins. Mr. Brown says that during the winter he cuts wood and also does considerable trapping. So far this winter he has bagged six coons and six wildcats. He brought the skins to the city to sell and among the lot was the pelt of a fair sized wildcat, which has two tails. Mr. Brown said that he caught this cat with more tails than his mates, and had it alive for some time, and thinking that it was worth more to him dead than alive he killed and skinned it.

Mr. Brown says that owing to the heavy drifting of the snow that the road between St. John and St. Martins has been almost impassable and that the mails have been greatly delayed. At the end of the first half, during which both teams played fast, an even score of the each was made but in the second half Trinity secured thirteen more points and Stone eight, giving the game to the former team with a total score of twenty-two to seventeen. The lineup was:

BASKETBALL

A good game of basketball was played at the Y.M.C.A. last evening by teams from Trinity and Stone churches. At the end of the first half, during which both teams played fast, an even score of the each was made but in the second half Trinity secured thirteen more points and Stone eight, giving the game to the former team with a total score of twenty-two to seventeen. The lineup was:

Trinity.	Stone.
Forwards.	Clark
Wilkes	Clark
Pattison	H. Wetmore
Centre.	Centre.
Bell	McKean
Defence.	Defence.
Markham	MacRae
Grant	F. Wetmore

The Loylists defeated St. Paul's Scouts' team in an interesting match. In the first half the Loylists held their men down to the eight, giving the game to the latter team with a total score of twenty-six to fifteen. Strong of St. Paul's and Seely of the Loylists were the star players.

The lineup was as follows:

St. Paul's.	Loylists.
Forwards.	Seely
Strong	Stikolsky
Wetmore	Stikolsky
Centre.	Centre.
Sutherland	Kelley
Defence.	Defence.
Betz	Thomas
Hood	Robinson

CATARRH LEADS TO CONSUMPTION

Catarrh is as much a blood disease as scrofula or rheumatism. It may be cured, but it cannot be removed by simply local treatment. It causes headache and dizziness, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, affects the voice, deranges the digestion and breaks down the general health. It weakens the delicate lung tissues and leads to consumption.

Hood's Sarsaparilla goes to the seat of the trouble, purifies the blood, and so successfully that it is known as the best remedy for catarrh.

Hood's Sarsaparilla strengthens and tones the whole system. It builds up. Ask your druggist for Hood's, and insist on having it. There is no real substitute.

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 2,000 Bus. Selected P. E. I. "Banner"
 Germination Tested.
 Good Seed is scarce—We would recommend placing your orders early.
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 S SCISSORS FOR LIGHT CUTTING 1.00 to 1.50
 S SHEARS FOR BARBERS' USE 1.10 to 2.00
 S SNIPS FOR TINSMITHS' USE 1.50 to 4.00

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