

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 broadest 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 of the railway directorate. This contention can also be disposed of by reference to the commissioner's report, the extracts of which 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 is 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 frantically shrieked that as the result of that contribution Mr. Tennant was able to secure for the construction company a second contract at prices much in excess of those paid for the first.

The commissioner also answers this contention effectively when he declares there is not sufficient evidence to justify him in coming to the conclusion, from the evidence so far given, that any member of the railway company or of the Government of the day, was in any way a party to such increase in prices for the purposes of such contribution."

Even in his final report, prepared after all the evidence was in, the commissioner is unable to find any improper action on the part of any member of the Government or of the railway directorate.

Commissioner Stevens has done his work well. Eminently qualified by a judicial mind, equable temperament and long experience for the duties he was called upon to perform, it was to be expected that he would base his report solely on the evidence and would be altogether uninfluenced by the excited clamoring of political scalp hunters promoting the enquiry, or the press supporting them. This expectation has been realized. His findings completely cover the case and, as already shown, constitute an absolute and most satisfying exoneration of every member of the Government of that day and of the Government appointed directors of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company.

As to the honesty of those who promoted the enquiry and of newspapers that vociferously declared that the members of the Murray Government and directors of the railway would be found guilty of gross misconduct, the public can draw its own conclusions.

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.

Mr. 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
Are we,
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
er way.
Others are tossed on drift-heap—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 untried get-rich-quick scheme that looks as easy as getting money from home in a letter.

OUT OF HIS OWN MOUTH.
Hon. Mr. Foster modestly admits that an offer of \$7.5 was received by him for the million dollar provincial bond issue, but was turned down because the deal had already been closed. We all knew this before, but an honest confession is good for the soul and when the present premier owns up to the rest of his shortcomings—through the recital may consume a lot of valuable time—there will be perhaps a little hope for him.

Yesterday The Standard endeavored to indicate the loss sustained by this province through the sale of these bonds at ninety-six, instead of at par. It amounted to a very considerable sum. But forgetting that, for the time being—as such an idea seems never to have entered Mr. Foster's head—look for a moment at the loss New Brunswick is compelled to assume through the break made on Mr. Foster's own admission. He—because the issue was secret until the deal had been completed—turned down an offer of \$7.5 and sold at 96. That is, the province received \$960,000 in place of \$975,000, a direct loss of \$15,000. And it pays interest at six per cent. on \$1,000,000 for a period of ten years. Thus during the ten-year term the six per cent. compounded, actually paid out by the province will amount to \$790,852. In return for this outlay New Brunswick will enjoy the use of \$960,000 on which sum the compounded interest actually earned would amount to \$759,208. This would represent, had the bonds been sold at par, an interest loss of \$31,644. But Hon.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.
Yesterday me and Puds Skimkins and Leroy Shooster thawt of a good idee to attrack a crowd, being to pertend we had lost something and start to look for it. Wich we did, wawking up and down the pavement with our heds bent away over, saying, Gosh, thats funny, I wonder ware it got to, it coodent of rolled far, it must be around sumwars, and dif-frent 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 pertending 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 keep on hunting, and pritty soon 2 men came along cleaning 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 bysickle and started to hunt with us, saying, Wats you looking for? Findings keepings?
In one shoe and the 2 street cleaners 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 cleaners and the messenger boy wood quick look up and then quick look down agan, and after a while the messenger boy sed, I got it, I got it, findings keepings. And he stooped down and wat did he pick up but a sent.
Ill be darned, I sed.
Well wats you know about that, sed Puds.
G wizz, Jiminy crickets, 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 cleaners tacked up their brooms and started to sweep the street agan, and the messenger boy wawked away with the sent, and me and Puds and Leroy Shooster sat down on my bottom step in diaakut.

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 curious cat with more tails than its 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 scored 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 scored 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:

FORWARDS. Stone, Wilkes, Clark, H. Wetmore, Centre, McKean, Defence, Markham, MacRae, Grant, F. Wetmore. The Loyallists defeated St. Paul's Scouts' team in an interesting match in the first half the Loyallists held their men down to themselves scoring twelve, but in the second St. Paul's came back stronger but did not succeed in making up their loss, the Loyallists winning out on them by one point, courtesy of thirteen 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 Loyallists were the star players.

CATARRH LEADS TO CONSUMPTION
Catarrh is as much a blood disease as scrofula or rheumatism. It may be relieved 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.
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IF BACKACHE OR KIDNEYS BOTHER

Eat less meat also take glass of Salts before eating breakfast.

Uric acid in meat excites the kidneys, they become overworked; get sluggish, ache, and feel like lumps of lead. The urine becomes cloudy; the bladder is irritated, and you may be obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night. When the kidneys clog you must help them flush out the body's urinous waste or you'll be a real sick person shortly. At first you feel a dull aching in the kidney region, you suffer from backache, sick headache, dizziness, stomach gets sour, tongue coated and you feel rheumatic twinges when the weather is bad. Eat less meat, drink lots of water; also get from any pharmacist four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to cleanse the kidneys and stimulate them to normal activity, also to neutralize the acids in urine, so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and active. Druggists here say they sell lots of Jad Salts to folks who believe in overcoming kidney trouble while it is only trouble.

OUTSIDE HELP NEEDED FOR THE TRIANGLE CLUB

Soldiers, Sailors and Returned Men Finding Comforts at the Clubs—Assistance is Needed for Furnishings and a Piano.

Soldiers, sailors and returned heroes in the city are enjoying great pleasure in the Red Triangle Club and are conducted by the Y. M. C. A. The room in the exhibition building for the Depot Battalion men needs cleaning, decorating and furnishing, and last but not least, a piano. The funds for this work has been about expended by the Y. M. C. A. and they ask for a joint committee from the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Young Ladies' League of the Y. M. C. A. to not only make these rooms more comfortable and attractive, but to provide free refreshments and weekly entertainments for the men in barracks. The officers are doing all they can, but outside help is needed.

Captain F. F. Best, Y. M. C. A. military secretary from the front, inspected the rooms yesterday and made many valuable suggestions. "There is a great work to be done here," he said. "Think of all the comfortable homes in this city and compare them with the bareness here. Why, these boys have scarcely a place to sit down and they must become accustomed, in time, to sleeping on bare boards. Now is the time to be good to these boys, before they go over and get killed; in order that these same comfortable homes up-towns may endure. What would our business men say if we had to do what Rumania is doing? All that saves us is the sacrifice of these men and men like them. You should be able to get whatever you ask for, particularly comfortable chairs, pictures for the walls, flags and busting and contributions of coffee when the home-sweetening is held." The work of fitting up the rooms is to begin at once and contributions may be sent to Red Triangle Club, King Square, care of W. C. Ross, marked especially for Depot Battalion quarters.

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