# The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. McGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1916.


*"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.

## MR. MORRISSY'S LETTER.

The Standard, this morning, devotes considerable space to a letter written to Premier Clarke by Hon. John Morrissy in reply to a letter from the premier demanding Mr. Morrissy's resignation as a member of the Clarke Government.

Before considering the contents of that letter it may not be amiss to recall certain events which transpired in Fredericton during the past two or three days. The Premier's letter to Mr. Morrissy was despatched on Saturday and very shortly after the receipt of it by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Morrissy was in close conference with E. S. Carter, Liberal organizer for the Province of New Brunswick. The Premier's letter was, presumably, a private document, but Mr. Morrissy did not so regard it as it appeared in full in the Telegraph yesterday morning, and when it is remembered that Mr. Morrissy left Fredericton, on Saturday night, for his home in Newcastle, and the Telegraph published the letter under a Fredericton date-line it is evident at once that it was sent to that newspaper by Mr. Carter who had first received it from Mr. Morrissy. Evidently it was part of Mr. Morrissy's well defined plan to play in with the opposition after being practically "fired" from the Clarke Government. This, of itself, is a matter of minor importance but it is as well that independent men should remember it when giving attention to the matters contained in the ex-Minister's rather bitter epistle in reply to the Premier.

Mr. Morrissy opens by the statement that he considered it his duty to resign from the Government led by Premier Clarke. It is most significant that his sense of duty was not sufficiently strong to impel him to take that action sooner and his professed conviction of duty, coming as it does after he has been dismissed, will naturally lose force.

He then deals with the matter of the Moncton bridge contract which, he states, was awarded on the recommendation of the departmental engineer. In spite of this statement it is an interesting fact that there is in existance a letter from the same engineer recommending another firm as the lowest tenderers. This information Mr. Morrissy apparently suppressed.

In regard to alleged letters and telegrams passing between Mr. John E. Wilson and members of the Rhodes Curry firm of Amherst in connection with the Moncton bridge contract, it need only be said that Mr. Wilson, who ceased to be a member of the Government some months ago, never suggested that the Rhodes Curry concern should be considered in connection with that work, that no tender from that firm was received for the Moncton bridge, and, finally, that the papers on which Mr. Morrissy bases his charge were surreptitiously removed from Mr. Wilson's desk.

Mr. Morrissy also assails the disinterestedness of Commissioner M. G. Teed, who held the investigation into the charges preferred against H. M. Blair, former secretary of the Public Works Department. It is only necessary to say that the people of New Brunswick know Mr. Teed and they also know the man who assails him. Mr. Teed requires no further vindication.

As to Mr. Morrissy's reluctance to suspend Mr. Blair, one of the matters referred to by Premier Clarke and dealt with at some length by Mr. Morrissy's reply, more may be heard later. It is a fact that Mr. Morrissy defended his secretary and that the Teed investigation had scarcely closed when, by order of the Minister of Public Works, an account of A. J. Gregory of Fredericton for services rendered in the defence of Blair was paid out of funds of the Public Works Department and this before Mr. Morrissy knew whether Blair would be acquitted or condemned by the commissioner. Blair was suspended, pending the result of the enquiry but that action was taken by the Government, not by the Minister of Public Works, who publicly declared that he knew no reason for Blair's suspension. The report of the Commissioner, however, proved that the Government was right and Hon. John Morrissy wrong.

Mr. Morrissy distinctly plays for sympathy by objecting that his resignation was demanded promptly while Mr. A. J. H. Stewart was permitted to continue as a representative of Gloucester county, Mr. Robichaud as a representative of the same county and Mr. Pinder as a representative of York. These matters can be easily and simply disposed of.

Mr. Stewart is no longer a member of the Legislature, and it is known that the only reason for delay in dealing with his case is to be found in the illness of Premier Clarke and the reluctance of the other members of the Government to act in his absence. Mr. Morrissy was a member of the Clarke Government at that time and made no outcry; his sole moan comes after he, himself, has been dismissed.

Neither is there any similarity between the case of Mr. Pinder and that of Mr. Morrissy. The matter on which Mr. Morrissy bases this complaint was a federal rather than provincial one and Mr. Pinder was not a Minister of the Crown. Mr. Pinder, himself, has made a statement in connection with it which statement is fresh in the minds of the people.

As regards Mr. M. J. Robichaud there has not been a word of evidence that he had improperly obtained money. It is well known that there was much personal ill feeling between Mr. Robichaud and Mr. Morrissy, as a result of which Mr. Robichaud claimed he could not get expenditures for improvements in his constituency. It is admitted that he was guilty of a high-handed act in directing expenditures himself and without authority from the Department of Public Works but PRACTICALLY ALL THE EXPENDITURES SO INCURRED HAVE SINCE BEEN PAID FOR AND PAID FOR ON THE ORDER OF HON. JOHN MORRISSY. IF THESE EXPENDITURES WERE WRONG, OR NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, MR. MORRISSY SHOULD NOT HAVE ORDERED THEIR PAYMENT. IF THEY WERE PROPER EXPENDITURES TO BE MADE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS SHOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED PERSONAL ILL FEELING TO COME BETWEEN HIM AND THE PROPER DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTY WHICH PLAINLY DEMANDS THAT HE SHALL AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. MR. MORRISSY CAN TAKE HIS CHOICE.

As regards allegations concerning Hon. Dr. Landry and conditions in Kent county, The Standard was unable last night to get in touch with Dr. Landry, but that gentleman's public record is such that there will be few to believe the statements which Mr. Morrissy seeks to credit to him.

Mr. Morrissy also gives it as his opinion that the allegations of Mr. E. S. Carter in connection with the matter of payments by St. John liquor licensees should have been investigated. WHY DID MR. MORRISSY NOT SAY SO WHILE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT? THE STANDARD IS PREPARED TO SAY THAT HE SAT AT THE COUNCIL BOARD DURING THE TIME OF THE CARTER ALLEGATIONS AND NEVER MADE THE SUGGESTION THAT THEY SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED. IF AS HE STATES, IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD THEN HE SUCCEEDED ADMIRABLY IN CONCEALING IT UNTIL AFTER HE CEASED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. HIS STATEMENT NOW WILL BE OPEN TO THE SUSPICION THAT THE REQUEST FOR HIS RESIGNATION CAUSED HIM TO CHANGE HIS OPINION ON THAT AND ON OTHER THINGS.

One statement made by the ex-Minister of Public Works has already been branded as absolutely untrue by the gentleman most concerned. It is that alleging that Hon. J. A. Murray told Hon. Dr. Landry that the books of the Agricultural Department were being kept open in order to admit a refund of $10,000 from Mr. B. Frank Smith and associates in connection with the patriotic potatoes. Hon. J. A. Murray never made such a statement and in another part of this issue he challenges any man in Canada to prove that he or any official of the department profited by one cent from any agricultural expenditure, or that they had knowledge of improper profit on the part of any other person.

In regard to the allegation that Mr. Daggett made payments on a note in connection with the York county election, The Standard has no knowledge, but it has the assurance that in any case no public money was used for that purpose. It is also a fact that Mr. Morrissy had never previously suggested that this matter or the alleged statement of Dr. Landry concerning B. Frank Smith and the patriotic potatoes should receive attention from the Government.

It is also alleged that Mr. Morrissy had knowledge that untrue information was furnished in reply to enquiries from the opposition. If this be true how does it happen that the Minister of Public Works for one minute consented to remain as a member of a government guilty of such practices? His statement that it was at the request of the Lieutenant Governor requires the corroboration of that gentleman before it can be considered. It was Mr. Morrissy's plain duty if he knew of the existence of such a condition to resign at once from the Government and make his charges on the floors of the Legislature. In this, as in other things, however, his sense of duty seems to have been remarkably stimulated by the demand for his resignation.

In regard to extra payments to Mr. McVay. This is purely a matter within the Department of Public Works and for which Mr. Morrissy should be responsible. IF MR. McVAY RECEIVED IMPROPER PAYMENT FOR EXTRAS THAT PAYMENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE UNLESS ORDERED BY MR. MORRISSY. DID HE ORDER IT? IF SO, WHERE WAS HIS SENSE OF DUTY?

It is most remarkable that Mr. Morrissy had not been previously heard from on the subject of the Valley Railway, if as he claims the change of route was decided upon without consulting him. He has had plenty of opportunity to make his position on this question clear and to have withdrawn from the Government if the Government's action did not meet his views. As a matter of fact, however, his attitude throughout has been that the changed route was the correct solution of the problem of the St. John Valley Railway.

In conclusion it need only be said that if Mr. Morrissy had made his allegations and offered to resign office in consequence of conditions of which he now complains, his action would have come with a force which would be felt from one end of the province to the other. But he did nothing of the sort. He kept his grievances and his complaints from the public until after he was asked to retire from the Government, and then he furnished a statement only after a conference with the opposition organizer. The public can draw their own conclusions as to the sincerity of the complaints made.

The Morrissy letter establishes to the public a condition which has long been known to Government supporters in the Legislature, and that is the existence of a very close relationship between the Department of Public Works and Messrs. E. S. Carter and P. J. Veniot. Now that Mr. Morrissy has come out openly on the side of his opposition friends there need no longer be the slightest difficulty in classifying him just where he belongs.

## ROTARIANS HONOR MAYOR R. T. HAYES

### Thirty-three Years Ago Yesterday His Worship First Came to St. John — Has Prospered Since.

At the meeting of the Rotary Club last evening one of the guests was His Worship Mayor Hayes who, by reason of his office, becomes an honorary member. Mr. Hayes in an interval of business was called upon for a brief address. The point of interest in his remarks was that thirty-three years ago last night he first came to St. John, a country boy, who did not enjoy good health in Prince Edward Island, and who came over here for a change. In his earlier days Mr. Hayes had been used to hard work, and his health was such that he could not stand it. Nor after the first season here did he find much improvement, so he went home for a few months and came back again to stay. Here he has been ever since, in the Humphrey business in which he is now an important factor. In the few first years much of the work fell on him, as the business was not what it is today and the jobs which came to his hand were of material value in giving him an insight into all branches of the business. Here in the intervening years he has lived and married and brought up a truly patriarchal family of seven children. One of his boys, the eldest, responded promptly to the call of duty and has been at the front since the first opportunity offered. He is proud of that boy—proud of all his family, in fact—and prouder still to be a citizen of St. John.

Mr. Hayes was given a great reception by members of the club and invited to be present as often as possible at future meetings.

## Little Benny's Note Book

The Invisibles wawked out to the park for some more spring practice today, and all of a suddin wile Skinny Martin was dubbeling himself all up getting reddy to pitch a cerve, a little wite dawg with a black ear and a black eye ran up and started to jump on him, and Skinny Martin stopped starting to pitch the cerve and sed, "O, fellos, he ain't got eny collar on, lets keep him for a mascot."

And we all ran up yelling, "We got a mascot, herray, we got a mascot." And the little dog started to bark like enything and jumped up on everybody, getting all excited because he coodent jump on more than one at wunts, and I sed, O, he's a grate mascot, lets give him a name. Wat shell we call him?

Lets call him Horse Shoe, that's a all rite good luck name, sed Sid Hunt.

That's rite, if you find a horse shoe its good luck, so if you find a dawg and call him horse shoe it awt to be good luck, too, sed Sam Crawss.

But we dident find him, he found us, sed my cuzzin Artie. Lets call him Four Leaf Clover, that's good luck weather you find it or no matter how you get it.

He ain't got 4 leafs, has he, sed Sid Hunt.

He's got 4 legs, ain't he, thare as good as leafs, sed Artie.

How about calling him Find-a-Pin, that's sipposed to be luck, I sed.

How about calling him Wawk-Under-a-Ladder, sed Puds Simkins.

That's bad luck, you poor simp, sed Reddy Merry.

How about jest calling him Mascot, sed Ed Wernick. Wich jest as everybody was starting to think that was a pritty good ideer, a little kid with one stocking down ran past calling, "Heer Spoart, heer Spoart." And the little dawg ran over to him and the kid kepp on running and so did the dawg, proberly belonging to eetch uther, and the Invisibles went back to thare spring practice.


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OUR COMPET
For Boys and
A "Same Word"
This week's contest consists of making best sentence, using the same word whenever
"Before the LOW fire, Mrs. LOW, wearil in a LOW chair, singing in LOW tones, whilst of cattle in the LOW-lying fields.
Here you will notice that the word "LOW times in the one sentence.
Now you try and make up a sentence usi as possible in same. To the Boy or Girl, not who sends in the most original sentence, sh story book. There will also be six other pr to the senders of the next in order of merit.
All attempts must be written on one sid be accompanied with the usual coupon corre in time to reach this office not later than We
All communications to be addressed to
UNCLE DICK
THE S
A COMPOSITION C
This week's Contest is one that I am sure out a story about Easter, telling all you ki things connected with the special time, such bits, as to their meaning, why you always in fact whatever you can find out. Don't m more than two hundred words, write on one in your best writing and don't forget to enclo ed in. All kiddies up to fifteen years of age and send their attempts in by Wednesday, will consist of TWO LOVELY STORY BOO CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.
All communications to be addressed to
UNCLE DICK
THE
whose decision must be considered as final.
STANDARD COMPETITI
For Boys and Girls
Full Name.....
Address.....
Age.... Birthday .....

## PERSONAL.

Robert Smith of Sussex was at the Victoria last night.

E. W. Seeley, W. D. Allanach and Mrs. Allanach of Moncton were at the Victoria last night.

J. C. Jones of Petitcodiac was a guest of the Victoria last night.

W. C. Lee and Mrs. Lee of Fredericton were at the Victoria yesterday.

J. F. Calder of Campobello was at the Victoria yesterday.

W. R. Mills of Sussex was at the Victoria yesterday.

James Wilson of Campobello was a guest of the Victoria yesterday.

Angus Daigle of Chatham was at the Victoria yesterday.

One of the guests of the Royal yesterday was Shaw Stewart of Auckland, New Zealand.

B. B. Black of Amherst was a guest of the Dufferin yesterday.

A. E. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson of Moncton were at the Dufferin yesterday.

J. L. Feeney of Fredericton was at the Dufferin yesterday.

A. J. Brooks of Sussex was a guest of the Royal yesterday.

George J. Ross of Shediac was at the Royal yesterday.

W. F. Humphrey, M.L.A., of Moncton was at the Royal yesterday.

Dr. H. D. Fritz has returned from New York where he has spent the past three weeks in visiting hospitals and studying the most recent developments in his profession.

### Mrs. Annie Breen.

The death took place last evening of Mrs. Annie Breen, widow of David M. Breen, at her home 238 City Road. Mrs. Breen had been ill for some time past and her death will be regretted by a wide circle of friends. She leaves one son, J
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