

DID WATER TRY TO MAKE MACKENZIE OUT AS A COWARD?

Quotations Made From Dr. Le
Sueur's Unpublished Book
to That End.

PAGES OF HISTORY

Conduct of the Patriot at Navy
Island Come Into—What
Letters Say of It.

Further evidence of alleged at-
tempts on the part of Dr. W. D. Le
Sueur in his biography of William
Lyon Mackenzie, to throw slurs on the
character of the fiery reformer and
"patriot" of '37, was brought out this
morning before Mr. Justice Britton in
the Civil Assizes, where the suit of
Dr. George Lindsey to restrain Dr. Le
Sueur from publishing anything about
Mackenzie is proceeding.

"We have picked out only a few of
the briefest examples of Dr. Le Sueur's
misstatements," said J. F. Holmuth,
K.C., counsel for Mr. Lindsey. "We
don't want it understood that they
are all. Your Lordship can make com-
parisons fully at your leisure."

The first instance cited was that
of the so-called "Campbell letter,"
written by Mackenzie in 1840 to Major
Campbell, civil secretary to Lord El-
gin, then Governor-General. There
were several drafts of this letter, one
particular being full of self-con-
demnatory expressions, and Mr. Lin-
sey charges that Dr. Le Sueur quoted
this draft, and commented severely on
it, although the letter actually sent
was considerably different. The two
drafts were dated February 10 and
February 14, 1848, and Dr. Le Sueur
used the earlier and damaging one. The
actual letter is in the Archives
at Ottawa, and a photographic repro-
duction was shown in court.

Religious Trouble.

Another attempt was made by Dr.
Le Sueur, the plaintiff's allegor, in Chap-
ter 31 of the unpublished biography,
to show Mackenzie as a fomenter
of religious strife in order to make
political capital out of it.

"A certain Dr. Harrison," says Dr.
Le Sueur, "conceived the plan of writ-
ing a letter to the Patriote, abusing
the Roman Catholics, and then writing
a letter to the 'Mirror' answering it."
Harrison, in a letter of July 22 to
Mackenzie says, "The deed is done,
and that the patriot has swallowed
the bait."

Dr. Le Sueur insinuates that Mac-
kenzie had knowledge and approved of
that.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Lin-
sey, "that phrase refers to something
different, for at the end of the letter
Dr. Harrison speaks for the first time
of writing about the Roman Catholics.
Mackenzie, in a letter to a certain Mr.
Tipton soon after, says, 'Bid your sup-
porters beware of stirring up religious
disorders.'"

Mackenzie Not a Coward.

Mackenzie's conduct during the
Navy Island expedition in 1838, when
a band of "patriots" from Buffalo at-
tempted to invade Canada, was the
subject.

"Dr. Le Sueur attempted to show
that Mackenzie was a coward," said
Mr. Holmuth. "Dr. Le Sueur states
in his book that Mackenzie left Navy
Island on January 10, 1838, just before
it was bombarded, and did not return."
"That is incorrect," said Mr. Lin-
sey. "Mackenzie's own journal shows
that he left Navy Island on January
4, in order to put his wife in a place
of safety. A clipping from a Buffalo
newspaper of the day showed that
Mackenzie was arrested on that day
for breach of the neutrality laws. He
was released and returned to Navy
Island on January 6. He remained
there till January 15, when the siege
was raised. Dr. Le Sueur goes into
an elaborate and detailed explanation
to show that Mackenzie did not return,
assuming that he left on the 10th, and
not on the 4th."

Another statement of Dr. Le Sueur's,
to which exception was taken, was
that "The Loyallists confiscated no
man's estate, not even Mackenzie's."
A copy of the Canada Gazette was
produced of the date of October 25,
1838, announcing that 60 rebels had
been attainted, and their property for-
feited.

This concluded the citations from the
book. "We could instance fifty more cas-
es," said Mr. Holmuth, "but that
would take up too much time. Your
Lordship can look them up later."

As to Ownership of Papers.
Mr. George Shepley took up the
cross-examination, and asked about
the ownership of the papers.

"There is no doubt that your father,
Mr. Charles Lindsey, was the owner of
those papers?"

"None whatever."

"When did you come into possession
of them?"

"On May 6, 1908, when the will was
probated."

Mr. Shepley asked whether Mr.
Charles Lindsey or the witness was the
man to give permission to see the
papers.

"Even if my father had been willing,"
said Mr. Lindsey, earnestly, "and had
given permission to Dr. Le Sueur to
look at the papers, his then state of health
used the earlier and damaging one. I would not have allowed
it if my judgment had not been
convinced."

*Shepley,
March 12-13*

REPEAT/
RÉPÉTITION

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 22) William Lyon Mackenzie
- Clippings - LaSuer case 1912

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Archives nationales du Canada

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