

General Business.

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Body covered with scales. Itching terrible. Suffering endless. No relief. Doctors and medicines fail. Speedily cured by CUTICURA at a cost of \$3.

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If had known of the CUTICURA REMEDY twenty-eight years ago it would have saved me \$200 (two hundred dollars) and an immense amount of suffering. My disease (psoriasis) was on my head in a spot not larger than a dime. It spread rapidly all over my body and got under my nails. The scales would drop off of me all the time, and my suffering was endless and without relief. One thousand dollars would not tempt me to have this disease over again. I am now a well man, but feel rich to be relieved of what a poor man, but feel rich to be relieved of what a poor man, but feel rich to be relieved of what a poor man...

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B. . . . . APRIL 17, 1890.

Ottawa.

Our Ottawa letter of this week does not contain anything of importance, save evidence that the tariff charges are receiving a great deal of attention and are very sharply criticised, especially by the maritime members and the great body of men engaged in the natural industries of the country. They are shown to be especially hard upon lumbermen, fishermen and mechanics — in fact upon all classes save the manufacturers, in whose interest they are made.

The Atkinson Charges.

Whatever may be the asperities growing out of political differences or disappointments, it will be admitted by every good citizen that the man who endeavors, maliciously and without sufficient evidence, to degrade the status of his country's rulers and assail their integrity is, himself, little better than a criminal, and, if we mistake not this will be the feeling most people in this province will entertain for Mr. Atkinson of Carleton County, who allowed himself to be put forward as the accuser of Hon. Attorney General Blair in the charges which he formulated last week, as reported in the ADVANCE of 10th. We stated our opinion, when announcing the charges, that the fact of Mr. Atkinson being put forward to make them indicated that the more able and respectable members of the opposition must have grave doubts as to their value. If they could be proved, Mr. Blair would not only be driven out of public life, but the existence of the Government, itself, would be involved. It will, therefore, be realised, that if Mr. Hanington, who leads the opposition, or Mr. Stockton, who is second in command on that side, had believed in the truth of the charges, one or the other of them would have formulated them, and not left the job to a man of Mr. Atkinson's calibre and position in the house. It is well-known that Mr. Atkinson is the member of the opposition who is always ready for any work that is to be done, so long as it will give him notoriety. He has, too, for a good while, been the confidante of a gentleman in York, whose vindictive pursuit of the Attorney General is known to everybody familiar with the politics of that County, and Mr. Atkinson seems to court the doubtful distinction of allowing himself to be used as that person's foil in his attacks upon the gentleman he, evidently, envies, but to whose eminence in public life he can never hope to attain by the methods to which he has resorted for the past two years. The public care little for people of the Atkinson stamp, but they watch the course of such men as Messrs. Hanington, Stockton and Phinney with interest, because they are leaders amongst us, and when they are found following a man of Attorney General Blair's position in public life and endeavoring to fasten upon him the guilt of a charge such as that made by Atkinson, after it is apparent to the public that he is innocent, they cannot but share the odium of their degrading work. If Mr. Blair were guilty of accepting money from Mr. Leary of New York for his election fund in return for giving that gentleman the Government contract to build the St. John dock, it would be a disgrace to the province. Mr. Hanington, Mr. Phinney and others actively engaged in the investigation of this charge — for that is Mr. Atkinson's indictment against Mr. Blair — must have been convinced by Alderman Kelly's testimony that there was not the least justification for it. Yet, they went on with the matter, seeming to grow the more rabid, if not indeed, as the accused premier's entire innocence became the more manifest. Mr. Hanington professed, at first, that he hoped the charges were untrue and some of his followers did the same thing. The sincerity of these declarations may be estimated at their true value in the light of Mr. Hanington and Mr. Phinney's conduct before the committee, for no one who has followed the reports of the proceedings can escape the conviction that these gentlemen would prefer the disgrace of their province, which would follow proof of the charges, rather than that the innocence of Mr. Blair, which is so manifest under the evidence, should be established.

Every man who is loyal to the country and its institutions, and whose political prejudices do not outweigh his patriotism, will be glad to know that the evidence before the committee has not only failed to sustain the disgraceful charges of Mr. Atkinson, but absolutely disproved them. Accompanying that feeling, however, will be one of disappointment that the opposition leaders failed in their duty, both as public men and gentlemen, in not washing their hands of the dirty job the moment that the proof of Mr. Blair's innocence was placed before them. Such conduct as theirs will go far to lower the standard of our politics and weaken the confidence of the people in the integrity and purposes of our public men. Mr. Hanington and those led by him in the Assembly have, by themselves and with the

assistance of the opposition press, carried on a most discreditable crusade against premier Blair and other members of the Government ever since the beginning of the present year. They have caused the country to be flooded with charges of all kinds of corruption against their successful opponents, in the hope, apparently, that the public mind might, in some measure, be prejudiced thereby. Their want of success seems to have maddened them to a degree of recklessness seldom exhibited by self-respecting men, and their crowning failure in the only charge they have had the courage to formulate, so that it could be investigated, only adds new vindictiveness to their programme, the carrying out of which has already disgusted the public with their tactics and want of political decency.

The gentlemen interested against Mr. Blair in the charges endeavored, in the first place, to defeat the motion made, at his request, for an immediate investigation. And, even when they could do no worse, they were not satisfied with having the enquiry confined to the issue placed before the country and formulated by Mr. Atkinson, but attempted to get authority renewed which they might take evidence bearing on almost any matter, whether it related to the charges or not. All the circumstances give color to the suspicion that they did want an investigation. They have not attempted to explain why they withheld the charges until the business of the session was so far advanced as to warrant the expectation that the house would be prorogued within a week. There were, of course, no facts in their possession to warrant the charges made, yet the story of Mr. Blair's chief enemy, who got up "the information," was common property before the session opened — that is, he told it to anybody who would listen to him, just the same as any other politician would do. The plan was to give notice of the resolution for a committee, so that the usual time might elapse before it was appointed. Then they sought to widen the enquiry so as to make its scope embrace the work of what is generally known as a "smelling committee." This would enable them to prolong the trial of Mr. Blair far beyond a reasonable date, and also to influence the house and country against certain bills introduced by Mr. Blair. They have, however, been forced to toe the mark — to come into court and tell all they know. That the result is an exposure of their venation against the man they envy, a refutation of their calumnies and a complete vindication of his absolute innocence of the charges formulated, is most satisfactory.

It was proved by the evidence that Alderman Kelly, of St. John sent his partner, Mr. Murphy, to Fredericton by nomination and polling day in January with a package of money — \$1,500 — which Murphy delivered to Mr. Barry, an active worker in the York election on the side of the government ticket, and law partner of Mr. Blair. Mr. Kelly swore that the money was subscribed by friends of the government in St. John and gave most convincing testimony that Mr. Leary had nothing to do with the matter, directly or indirectly. Mr. Barry showed that the money was spent in general election expenses, as the donors intended, and as all election funds are. The following extracts from the proceedings before the committee will give an idea of the utter failure of the charge that Mr. Blair, either directly or indirectly, arranged to receive, or did receive money from Leary to promote his election.

Alderman Kelly — Mr. Leary was once at my place, I think in December, and again two or three weeks after the election. Gilbert R. Pugsley, R. Pugsley, and Skinner were with him the second time. On his first visit Mayor Lockhart introduced Leary to me. Ald. Kane was there and I think Ald. Cannon. I would not support the contract unless they gave the contract, neither did I hear Ald. Cannon make any such remark. Mr. Pugsley objected to all this kind of evidence.

Witness — I sent our firm's money up here for election purposes. Mr. Hanington — Did you not send the money with instructions to Murphy not to deliver it till he heard from you? Witness — Yes. I instructed Murphy by telephone on Jan. 17th to deliver the package to Mr. Barry. I had been re-empowered before telling Murphy to pay the money to Barry. I did not tell Murphy I was re-empowered. I also told him enough to recoup me between the afternoon of the 16th and 17th.

Mr. Hanington — Who subscribed the \$1,500? Witness — \$1,000 was subscribed by a brother of W. B. Carvell the candidate; Ald. Connor subscribed about \$300; Mr. Quinon \$200 and other sums were subscribed. I do not know who subscribed myself. All this was for a general fund.

To Mr. Hanington — I sent up \$1,500 to Mr. Blair's partner to help the contract Blair and his ticket. The Leary contract had nothing to do with it. I arranged with the solicitor general and others to send the \$1,500 to York county, but I was to be re-empowered. I did not tell my partner anything about it. He does not interest himself in politics. I sent the money to Mr. Barry and I do not know where it went. I do not know it well enough to swear to it. I will swear that not one cent of the \$1,500 was sent to York or what I got back was raised by notes.

Cross examined by Mr. Pugsley — The dry dock question had nothing to do with sending money to York or Westmorland. The dry dock did not come in evidence until after that. There was much feeling over the Ritchie appointment. I had been a Conservative and wanted a straight Conservative ticket, but when the Conservatives nominated Dr. Stockton and Dr. Atwood I joined the government party. The Leary dock had nothing to do with it. Our friendship for Mr. Hanington was because of what the papers said of his attitude on the Ritchie appointment. I am an Irishman. I have been in public life in St. John 11 years and I defy any man to show that I ever went wrong in money matters. Mr. Leary accompanied our civic delegation on dock matters to Fredericton. There were no plans before the government and I urged them to give the contract to Mr. Leary, whom the city council had endorsed by a vote of 19 to 4.

Mr. Pugsley produced a copy of the Globe of January 4th and witness identified a letter from the provincial secretary, which letter was cited in evidence. His object was to show that at that date the contract was awarded, whereas the prosecution sought to make it appear that the contract was not awarded till 14 days later when the \$1,500 was paid to Mr. Barry at Fredericton.

The reading of the letter was objected to by Mr. Hanington but was sustained by Mr. Kelly. I never knew of any arrangement of any kind, with Mr. Blair, directly or indirectly, under which this money was to be awarded to Leary in consideration of his contributing to the election fund.

To Mr. Mitchell — I supported the government solely on account of Ritchie's appointment. Re-examined by Mr. Hanington — I did not tell anyone it was a mistake to think that these funds were from Leary. They came from the Grand Trunk or Globe was for \$2,500 only. We only claimed they should give the dock ticket as agreed on as much as another company claimed. That was from \$7,500 to \$10,000. This was claimed right through by the delegation.

Mr. Kelly was examined by Mr. Phinney at some length as to when he first saw the Leary contract. He was signed, his relations with Leary, and his cash advance to the York election in an emergency, and said: The solicitor general showed me his name on the Queen Hotel register and I said the initials were not right. I said "more than that," when Gregory asked me about the money I was joking with Gregory.

Most important testimony was given by the attorney general himself, he had claimed his right to give evidence. He gave a very full and frank statement of all that had taken place within his knowledge in connection with the matter. He denied that he had ever any communication, either verbal or written with Mr. Leary or anyone on his behalf, or had authorized any other person on his behalf to have any communication with that gentleman in respect of his contributing money to the elections, nor had it ever been intimated to him directly or indirectly, that Mr. Leary would contribute or had contributed one cent.

With a frankness which no doubt had a most effect upon those who listened, he stated that when Solicitor General Pugsley, at Harvey's at his meeting on the 15th of January urged him to come to St. John and address a public meeting at the Institute he (Mr. Pugsley) stated that if it was any inducement he thought the friends of the government in St. John would contribute something, probably \$1,000 towards helping them out in York and this was the first intimation he (Blair) had that any such contribution would be made. No mention was ever made of Mr. Leary making any contribution, and neither at that time or at any other had he heard Mr. Leary's name mentioned in connection with contributing money to the elections.

Referring to the contract Mr. Blair said that from the 3rd of January, when he had telephoned the then provincial secretary in answer to that gentleman's inquiry as to whether he was willing that the contract should be given to Mr. Leary, he had had nothing further to do with the matter, but had left it to the solicitor general to attend to the formal work of getting the contract ready. The solicitor general had mailed him, early in January, the draft of the contract, but owing to his being very much engaged in the York election he had not given it any attention and had, at Mr. Pugsley's request at Harvey, January 15, telegraphed Mr. Barry to forward it to the solicitor general at St. John. The attorney general's evidence appears to be a complete and convincing refutation of the charge which has been trumpeted up against him.

News and Notes.

Six axes belonging to C. C. Schurman of West Windham, N. S. have produced 13 lambs this spring all of which are alive.

A Halifax paper says the New Brunswick Legislative Council has voted for the abolition of that body. This will be news to the Council.

The Wimbledon team leaves for England, June 18th, in the steamer Polytechnic.

W. A. Lockhart was on Tuesday, 8th inst., elected mayor of St. John by a majority of 404 votes.

Congressman Randall died in Washington on Sunday.

The Quebec Legislature was prorogued on the 2nd inst., it had been nearly three months in session.

Amherst town council has ordered the construction of several side-walks in different parts of the town. Chatham hasn't any town council.

The rate-payers of Antigonish have voted in favor of water-works, the sum to be paid not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

A gentleman of Parrsboro has applied to the local government for an act to incorporate a company to bring water into the town, and light it by electricity.

Last week Ambros Foss, one of the best farmers of Fort Fairfield sold 900 barrels of potatoes for \$2.30 per barrel or \$2070 for the lot — a pretty good income for one farmer — in Houlton Times.

Mr. T. C. Connor, of Moncton, has been awarded the contract for the erection of the Dominion Immigration building at Halifax. It will cost \$7000 or \$8000. When will the Dominion Government award a contract to somebody to erect a new Customs and Post Office building in Chatham?

Mrs. Weeks, accused of poisoning Mrs. Sutherland of Charlottetown, has been sent to the Supreme Court for trial. Mrs. Weeks has been released on bail, her bondsmen being J. J. Davis, and Thos. A. McLean in \$2,250 each.

The assessment, by the Assessors' returns published by the Local Legislature, of the City of Halifax for 1890 stands as follows: Real Estate, \$15,122,495; Personal, \$6,572,014; Total, \$21,694,509. Income is not assessed in that city.

It is estimated that fully 2,000 souls have been added to Manitoba's population already this season, and that of

that number 700 were heads of families and adult males, the balance being their wives and children. And the season's operations will not open for two or three weeks.

As a result of experiments made lately on army manoeuvres in France with smokeless powder, it is thought the traditional red trousers of the French infantry will be discarded, as they furnish too plain a mark for an enemy.

An exhibition of toys is to be opened in St. Petersburg. It is intended to illustrate the history of toys from the earliest ages. Particular attention is to be given to Asiatic toys, which are said to be marvels of fine workmanship.

It is said that Prince Bismarck has expressed the intention to send communications to the press at frequent intervals on important political questions of the day. He is also compiling a memoir for publication, which will comprise 25 years of his official life.

A Canton, China, paper estimates that 750,000 people die every year in China by fire and flood, but it is not satisfied. "The fact is," it remarks with cold-blooded cynicism, "the great need of China is the sudden removal of two or three million inhabitants to make elbow room for those who are left."

One of the boldest preachers in the English Church is Alfred Williams Momerie, professor of Logic, and Metaphysics in King's College, London. His recently published volume of sermons, entitled "Church and Creed," is attracting general attention, and may be taken as the latest expression of the rapidly-growing Broad Church school of thought in the English Church.

The Esquimaux of Greenland call now boast of a newspaper. It is called the Reader, and the editor thereof, one Lars Moeller, sets up and prints the paper. He also designs and engraves the illustrations, which, it may be explained, are not remarkable for excellence. His printing establishment was only a makeshift, but the members of a Danish literary society, having heard of Moeller's difficulties, sent him new type, printing ink, paper and a larger press than he had been using.

Sir Edward Watkins' scheme for a tunnel under the English Channel will be less unpopular now, since it has had a result quite unexpected, with which everybody is pleased. In his experimental borings for the tunnel he has discovered beneath Shakespeare's cliff, at Dover, a vein of coal of excellent quality. It is believed to be an extension of the French and Belgian coal fields, and to afford a supply of vast extent. If the present promise is realized it will add enormously to the wealth of England, for it will supply coal just where it is needed for ocean steamers, and will open a new manufacturing district in a region now almost wholly agricultural, and give a new value to lands from which it has lately been impossible to derive any profit.

THE LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, April 9.—This morning the speaker named as the special committee to investigate Dr. Atkinson's charges Messrs. Mitchell, Stockton, Wilson, Atkinson and Hetherington. Mr. Stockton said there were private reasons which he would mention to Mr. Speaker which would prevent his serving on the committee. His reasons would necessitate his absence from the house for the next two or three days. The speaker named Mr. Phinney in place of Mr. Stockton. Mr. Phinney said he would sooner not serve on the committee, the inquiry having been narrowed down from what it was intended by Dr. Atkinson's motion.

Mr. Mitchell said he wished to set himself right before the house and country. As a member of the government it might be considered unfair and improper for him (Mitchell) to act on the committee.

Mr. Stockton — Oh no. Mr. Hanington — I don't think there can be any objection to the provincial secretary being on the committee. It is quite right that he should be upon it.

Mr. Speaker said he did not know that he could excuse Mr. Phinney from serving, but he would consider the matter and give his decision after dinner.

The bill providing for the incorporation of cheese and butter manufacturing associations and the bill amending the law relating to fences, trespasses and pounds were adopted with amendments.

The bill relating to the indiscriminate sale of poisons was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Mitchell, Lewis, Melanson, Shaw and Douglas.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie furnished the house with the information asked for by Mr. Melanson concerning applications under the free grants act.

Mr. Hetherington said he would take it as a favor if the speaker would excuse him from serving on the select committee to which he had been appointed. His business required that he should get home as soon as possible. Mr. Phinney repeated his request to be excused.

The speaker said he could not excuse the hon. members for the reasons given by them. The committee would therefore stand as he had named it, with Mr. Phinney in place of Dr. Stockton, who had given a good reason why he should not serve.

FREDERICTON, April 10th.—Mr. Borchell gave notice of motion for copies of all documents and papers relating to the claim of Michael O'Brien of Northumberland against the government; also copies of correspondence between him and the government or any member thereof in reference to said claim.

Mr. Phinney gave notice of motion for copies of all correspondence had by the government of this province with the imperial government, the government of the dominion of Canada, and the governments of the several provinces of Canada, or any or either of

them since the 20th March, 1888, with reference to the resolutions adopted at the Interprovincial conference held at Quebec in October, 1887, with copies of all communications or replies received by the government of this province from any of the said governments relating thereto; also copies of all orders in council with reference thereto of the carrying into effect of the resolutions of this legislature with reference to the Quebec resolutions (so called) passed at the session of this legislature in March, 1889.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie committed the bill amending the law providing for the survey, reservation and protection of lumber lands, Mr. O'Brien in the chair. Mr. Tweedie explained the bill. Its object was to do justice to a class of bona fide settlers on the Upsalquitch and Restigouche rivers who would have got their grants long ago but for the sudden departure from the province of a certain labor act commissioner, some years ago.

Dr. Atkinson continued the policy of the government in reserving a frontage of four rods in connection with free grants lands. The crown land department should have discretionary powers to deal with all these cases. He had always found the present surveyor general and his predecessor (Mr. Mitchell) very attentive and obliging in their official capacities.

Mr. Phinney said there were a number of parties in Kent county who were entitled to their grants and who had not yet got them. He read letters from different persons in his county in proof of his statement, and mentioned several cases of what he regarded as extreme hardship, referring particularly to the cases of Mr. S. T. Powell and Mr. Finlay McLeod.

Messrs. Tweedie and Mitchell explained that it was very difficult to deal with all the cases of hardship. Sometimes the trouble was with the settlers themselves, and sometimes with the labor act commissioners. The crown land department was always willing to deal fairly with all cases coming before it.

The bill was agreed to.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Blair, the house went into committee of the whole Mr. Douglas in the chair, on a bill (already agreed to) to confer the power of making additional bye laws upon county councils and passed a resolution declining to concur in the amendments made by the legislative council and changing the phraseology of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie committed the bill incorporating Blackville Public Hall Company, Mr. Rourke in the chair. Agreed to.

FREDERICTON, April 11.—The opposition seem to be determined to prolong the session and caused nearly the whole of to-day to be frittered away in useless discussion brought on by Mr. Hanington who opposed the request of Mr. Wilson as chairman of the Committee appointed to investigate Dr. Atkinson's charges against Attorney-General Blair, that said committee be relieved from attendance at the house so that they might proceed with the investigation.

Mr. Hanington said he had given notice when the committee organized that he desired to put Mr. George Murphy on as the first witness. Mr. Murphy was not present, but Mr. Kelly, his partner, was.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell called attention of the House to the fact that Mr. Hanington was out of order, in referring to proceedings of the committee.

Mr. Hanington fired up at this and then was a chorus of calls to order.

Mr. Hanington — You are not going to bark me with your calls of order. There is no great urgency why the investigation should be proceeded with this morning. The witness he had asked for, one he intended putting on first, had not yet arrived, and why should the investigation proceed before evening?

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said if the committee had any representation to make to the house they would do so in the usual and proper manner. The course of the leader of the opposition was most unfair.

Mr. Hanington — I am not stating what the committee did, but what was understood by the committee.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell — The hon. member is misrepresenting what took place. Mr. Hanington said the witnesses in the Adams case were kept waiting from day to day. What harm could be done in having this investigation commence this evening instead of now? It was not his fault that Mr. Murphy was not here at the present time.

The speaker read rule 221, which states that no committee can sit while the house is in session without special leave from the house.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell — I move that the committee be granted leave to sit.

Mr. Stockton — That motion is clearly out of order. It cannot be made without two days notice.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said Mr. Kelly, who was summoned as one of the witnesses, was here now. Mr. Kelly had explained to Mr. Hanington and himself that it was impossible for his partner, Mr. Murphy, and himself to be away from their business at the same time. Mr. Murphy was out of town yesterday, only getting back to St. John last night. Mr. Kelly had arrived last night, and just as soon as he could get through with his testimony Mr. Murphy would come up. He (Pugsley) was acting as counsel for Mr. Blair in this matter. It would be recognized by members on both sides of the house that there should be no unnecessary delay in the progress of the investigation. A most serious charge had been made against the leader of the government late in the session, and in justice to him the investigation should proceed at once. The Fredericton witnesses were here Mr. Kelly was here and Mr. Murphy would be here just as soon as Mr. Kelly could get back to St. John.

Mr. Wilson urged that no time should be lost in proceeding with the investigation, because the charges were serious and affected the integrity of the leading member of the government of the province, while the delay which the opposition now seemed

anxious to secure afforded the press hostile to the accused leader chance to prejudice the case, as it was improperly doing, and thus prejudice the public mind. Was it not evident that the real cause of opposition to the members of the committee being, excused from attendance here, so that they might proceed with the investigation, was in order the public might in the meantime, read and be impressed with the charges made and the comments of the opposition upon them — comments which, in some cases, were most improper, unfair and unwarranted at the present stage of the enquiry.

Mr. Hanington referred to charges made by Mr. Blair against members of "the old government," etc. and also to the "Pacific Scandal" charges. Said he, If, the attorney general be innocent of the charges made against him what has he to fear by the delay necessary for the bringing here of the most important witness? He assumed that Mr. Blair was innocent of the charge made until it could be proved that he was guilty. Sir John A. Macdonald had not attempted to force the Pacific railway inquiry on. He had consented to the investigation taking place during recess rather than interfere with the business of the house. [This caused great merriment and the hon. special pleader remembered that as Sir John had subsequently pleaded guilty, by throwing up the reins of government, it was natural that he would not only consent to force the inquiry into his corrupt contract-selling to Sir Hugh Allen, but be ready to "consent" that the investigation should take place at a date as remote as possible. Mr. Blair's urgent desire for no delay whatever, in his case, did not seem to occur to Mr. Hanington as a contrast to Sir John's course which told very much in Mr. Blair's favor.]

Hon. Mr. Blair — In order that every member of the house may have an opportunity of attending the investigation, and in order to meet the insinuations made that I feared the full inquiry, I now move that the house adjourn till 5 o'clock so that the committee may meet on with its business. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said there was no reason why the motion should not prevail. There was nothing in the contention of the leader of the opposition that witnesses at the inquiry should be presented in a certain order. Now what were the facts? The session was far advanced and there were many local bills yet to be considered. The meetings of the select committee would be far from home and corner meetings. They would at all times be open to members of the house. The proposition to have the committee sit while the house was in session was made so that such local bills as were ready might be got through the house and that the committee might have no time in entering upon its duties. The meetings of the committee were open to any member whose duties would admit of his attending and were also open to members of the press. Every particle of evidence could be reported, so that the house and country would be fully informed of the proceedings of the committee. Already there were four witnesses ready to be examined and why should there be any delay?

Dr. Stockton said the journals show that the Adams investigation was held in the morning before the house opened and again in the evening after the house closed. What injustice would then be done the attorney general to have this investigation proceed in the ordinary way? To have the sittings of the committee take place when the house is not in session would not preclude the giving of evidence calculated to exculpate the charges against the attorney general, or its publication generally in the press. The course now suggested looks like a determination on the part of some to prevent a full inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Blair — Do you make that charge?

Dr. Stockton — I say that it has that appearance. I find fault with the proposition just the same as I did with the action of the attorney general in amending Dr. Atkinson's resolution, which action practically made the attorney general a member of his own indictment.

This house should not be in session while the committee was examining every member of the house should be given a chance to attend the inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell — In view of the attempt that is being made to create the idea that the government desire that any of the members should be prevented from attending the investigation, I withdraw my motion.

Dr. Stockton — I object to the provincial secretary putting in my words that I never uttered.

Mr. Wilson — The words are out of your mouth now.

Hon. Mr. Blair repudiated the slander that had been made that there was any desire to prevent the evidence being heard in the presence of members of the house. It would be well to have the present charge disposed of before certain members of the opposition added to it by their insinuations. Was it unfair to ask that when a member was charged with a serious crime that the investigation should be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment? Charges had been made against his honor, against his honesty and against his integrity. These charges have been circulated all over this province and are now being disseminated in other parts of the dominion. Until these charges could be investigated an opinion unfavorable to his character must be formed in the minds of some persons. That being so, was it unfair to ask that the investigation should be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment having due regard for the efficiency of the inquiry? There were now four witnesses here, why not go on with their evidence? If there was any disposition on his part to interfere with the attendance of witnesses, or if it could be shown that some of the witnesses summoned might not attend, then there might be some excuse for having the investigation delayed. He (Blair) most emphatically denied that there was any disposition to have the inquiry conducted secretly. If there was the slightest tinge of evidence directly or indirectly to connect him with the charge against him he must be if he charges against him are correct, then he should be condemned by the house and country and the sooner the charges were heard the better for both himself and the country. He had a confidence and a knowledge in his own breast that the charges were not true, and as the leader of the government he did not think it unfair to ask that the investigation should be proceeded with immediately, especially as there were four witnesses ready to be examined. (Applause.)

Mr. Stockton said the public interests and public honor were as dear to the

house as were the honor and integrity of the attorney general. The latter had not been so anxious to extend consideration to Hon. Mr. Adams when he made charges against him.

Hon. Mr. Blair — You were a member of the committee at that inquiry and do not request made by Mr. Adams was refused. Mr. Stockton — That committee did not meet while the house was in session.

Mr. Mitchell — I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I was called from the floor of the house while it was in session. Mr. Phinney said Dr. Atkinson had a character and reputation to sustain in this matter as well as the attorney general. There could be no harm in delaying this investigation until to-night, when it was expected that Mr. Murphy would be present. He would be glad if the attorney general proved his innocence of the charges made against him and until his guilt was proved it was fair to assume that he was innocent.

Dr. Atkinson said the government seemed anxious to force on this investigation that the tactics of the opposition was to cause unnecessary delay. He remarked that insinuation. The attorney general had first chosen his own ground by restricting the investigation and he now proposed to say which witness shall be called first. The position taken by Mr. Blair and his supporters was one that could not commend itself to the fair play loving people of the province.

Dr. Atwood said he had listened attentively to the debate, and had come to the conclusion that the business of the house should not be suspended in order to permit of the investigation in the evening. (What harm could result from the delay until evening. He (Atwood) had been asked to second the motion for an inquiry into the charges against Mr. Blair, but he had declined to do so, stating that he knew nothing about the charges. He would be pleased to see the attorney general able to clear himself of the charges against him. The latter says his character may suffer because of delay in making the investigation. If the charges against the attorney general have been heralded all over the dominion the house is not responsible. It was to be presumed that Dr. Atkinson would not have made the charges unless he felt that he was backed up by facts, and it was also presumed that the fact remains in the mind of the public that the investigation showed that there was a corrupt agreement between Mr. Leary and himself. He read the charges made by the member for Carleton County. They had been made with the hope of impeaching him (Mr. Blair) and him alone. No other member of the government was in the mind of the party who had framed the charges. Take out of the charges the references to himself (Mr. Blair) and there would be nothing left. The member for Kent thought to make light of the references of a portion of the press to the charge made against him. He would read a sample of these press notices. Here it was —

"The fact remains and cannot be successfully disputed, that the contract was sold as charged in Dr. Atkinson's resolution."

Again: "He (Blair) cannot re-establish his character. In the eyes of the public, who know that the worst that he is the most corrupt politician this province has ever produced."

And further: "There was a time in the history of this province when such an act as that of which Mr. Blair is accused, and which, if proved, would have been impossible when the province was governed by men who, whatever might have been their errors, were at least honest."

These were the "mild criticisms" of a portion of the press in reference to these charges. Was there any reason then that he should desire the earliest and fullest investigation into the charges? The course of the opposition showed that they were running away from the charges made, and that they were afraid of the result. It must strike the ordinary mind that the case against him must be exceedingly weak when its success depends upon the order in which the witnesses are called. The action of the investigation in attempting to delay the investigation was an open confession of the weakness of the charges, and shows the rottenness of their case. (Applause.)

The motion to adjourn was then carried by the following vote: —

Yeas — Blair, Mitchell, Pugsley, Tweedie, LeBlanc, Russell, Harrison, Melanson, Palmer, Hetherington, Murray, Wilson, Ketchum, Douglas, Baird, Lawlor, Ballymore, Anderson, O'Brien, Burchill — 20.

Nays — Hanington, Stockton, Phinney, Atwood, Atkinson, Lewis, Stevens, Powell, Rourke, Smith, McKewen, Shaw, Perley — 13.

Messrs. Turner and Robinson retired. Hon. Mr. Ryan was absent through very serious illness.

The Atkinson blunder enquiry was presented to the business of the session from proceeding.

A despatch from the official reporter says: —