

The Reporter

AND FREDERICTON ADVERTISER

Herman H. Pitts,
Editor and Proprietor.

FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1891

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HERMAN H. PITTS,
Publisher and Proprietor

New Brunswick Reporter.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1891.

LAST NIGHT the French population of Boston entertained Mr. Laurier to a banquet. Doubtless he informed them of his deep regret at being unable to fulfil his programme of making Canada part of the United States.

IT IS likely that the brother of McNeil who was shot by the St. John policeman will proceed against the policeman for murder. The evidence it is said before the coroners jury was not at all full, and that there are reasons to believe that a sober, discreet, well armed man with assistance within call, could have effected the arrest without taking such extreme means.

WHAT ABOUT that Royal Commission the Government was to appoint to consider the pros and cons of prohibition. It is to be hoped it will be appointed before the next session of Parliament, or the wind will whistle around King's County when the Grand Division Sons of Temperance meet in Sussex next year. Temperance people are looking to the calibre of that commission to judge whether it is what it professes to be.

WE HAVE to congratulate the temperance people of Charlotte County on having again sustained the Canada Temperance Act. Notwithstanding the manner in which the law has been impeded the public sentiment of the Maritime Provinces is strongly in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic and are not disposed to legalize it, though they have to accept a law, the enforcement of which is fraught with so many difficulties, and of which the authorities seem to have such an abhorrence.

Postal Matters.

The announcement has been made that one result of the deliberations of the recent International Postal Congress has been the reduction of postage on matter addressed to places abroad, including India, Australia, etc., is now reduced in all cases to five cents per half ounce for letters, with other rates to correspond for newspapers, etc., except in the case of the Transvaal Orange Free State, British Bechuanaland, and other more remote places in the interior of Africa, served by way of Cape Colony or Natal. To those places in the interior of Africa the postage is to remain unchanged at present.

It is worth noting that while these rates of postage abroad are being reduced that to send a small parcel to Newfoundland by parcel post costs fifteen cents; that rate being from 1/2 an oz. to one pound. That the postage on half an oz. letter is five cents, and that the postage on newspapers from the office of publication is one cent for two ounces. The United States rates are the same as between the provinces of the Dominion, but because Newfoundland is a British province separate from the Dominion there seems to be a policy of complete prohibition of newspapers, and a heavy tax on all correspondence. It is a pity some congress, whether a Postal or Dominion, it matters not which, would try and break down the postal barrier between this country and Newfoundland.

The Half Was Never Told.

When people heard about the great steal in Quebec Province of \$100,000, a large amount of which was used by Mercier in corrupting the constituency and to keep himself in power, they were naturally indignant. But the Baie des Chaleurs steal is proving to be comparatively nothing to what has been stolen from that province in other ways during the last few years. It really seems as if the whole Government was a vast scheme of corruption and intrigue.

The liberal papers in that province are in despair over the extent to which corruption has gone, and are calling for a complete change.

The Montreal Witness calls upon Laurier to separate himself from Mercier, and to deny any complications with or knowledge of the Quebec transactions, which it seems, strange to say, Laurier refuses to do.

The latest scandal is over the Quebec Court House which cost the province the neat sum of \$900,000. Whelan who had the contract, when giving evidence before the Royal Commission on the Baie des Chaleurs matter, refused to answer some questions regarding the Court House contract, and whether he had paid any sums to members of the Government on this work. The questions were ruled out by the judges, but it gave the newspaper men who were looking for sensational items a clue, and the Toronto Empire immediately put a man on the track to ferret out the whole business if possible.

The result has been more than astounding. The Empire publishes a list of amounts paid to the Quebec Government by Whelan, and so acknowledged by him when cornered, that fairly takes away the breath of an ordinary individual.

The formidable list was first published by Le Moniteur and followed up by the Empire and was as follows:

"Is it true that Mr. J. P. Whelan paid \$113,000 to the big guns of the Liberal party on account of his contract for the construction of the Quebec Court House?"

This question has been asked so many times without evoking a satisfactory reply that the correspondent started out determined to get at the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, in connection with a matter that concerned not only the people of this province, but, as will be seen lower down, the ratepayers of the entire Dominion.

The following is a carefully detailed and correct statement of moneys paid by Mr. John P. Whelan to members of the Mercier and Laurier party for personal and political uses, the same being disbursed while the contractor was building the structure in question, or since the claim had been authorized by the Legislature of the province:—

Hon. H. Mercier.....	\$13,750
Hon. H. Mercier and C. A. Beausoleil, M. P.	23,500
Hon. H. Mercier and Ernest Pacaud	17,000
Achille Carrier, M. L. A. for Gaspe	2,550
Hon. Charles Langelier.....	2,500
Hon. P. Garneau and others.....	4,950
Hon. A. Turcotte, ex-Atty. Gen....	2,650
R. Prefontaine M. P.'s law office, of which the Hon. J. E. Robidoux is a partner.....	18,500
Hon. James McShane, Mayor of Montreal.....	7,100
Sundry Liberals.....	8,000
Dominion elections, 1887.....	14,500
Grand total.....	\$115,000

It will now be discovered that Ernest Pacaud had a precedent to look back to when he and his masters at Quebec deliberately stole provincial money to help Laurier at Ottawa during the Dominion elections of 1861, as the same dastardly trick had been consummated in 1891.

SOME FURTHER ITEMS.

In order, however, that there may be no mistake about it, the Empire presents the following details:

Paid Perrault.....	\$ 5,000
Paid Mathew Hearn's election in	

Quebec East.....	1,000
Paid H. J. Cloran in Montreal	
Centre.....	3,600
Paid Mercier, per D. F.....	2,500
Paid Senator Pelletier.....	2,500
Total.....	\$14,600

This the Quebec clique bagged from Mr. Whelan to fight the battles of Laurier and Riel in January, 1887. The strictly authentic information in the hands of the Empire correspondent goes to show that the sum of \$8,000, which figures in the first of the above lists, was paid out to a number of the small fry of the party, or, at least, went to their personal and political support. The names, in fact, are at the Empire's command and can be had at a moment's notice. It should be said, however, that \$2,500 went to secure Mr. Charles Champagne's election in Hochelaga, and \$650 to Mr. F. X. Lemieux, in Levis.

MR. WHELAN INTERVIEWED.

The Empire's next step was to interview Mr. J. P. Whelan himself, and it would be difficult to find a more surprised gentleman than the famous contractor when the above figures were placed before him. He was asked if they were correct and invited to furnish additional details. "Where under heaven did you get hold of all this?" was his opening remark, but, seeing that he was in for it, at last Mr. Whelan consented to be interviewed, and the following conversation took place:—

"Are the statements which I have just shown you correct?"

"Yes, I am sorry to say, they are substantially correct."

"With reference to the heavy amounts such as \$43,500 to Hon. Mr. Mercier, \$23,500 to Mr. Mercier and his law partner, Mr. Beausoleil, M. P., and \$16,000 to Mercier and Pacaud, can it be possible that you have paid so much money to these men?"

"Yes, it is all too true."

"Were those sums used for election purposes?"

"Yes, and for personal expenses also."

"What value were you supposed to receive from Pacaud, Beausoleil, Charles Langelier and Carrier?"

"They were all acting as agents to help me out with the Government, for Langelier was not at that time a member of the Cabinet."

Mr. Whelan was met by a Witness reporter, and was asked, "Is the Empire's statement correct or not?"

Mr. Whelan replied: "The Empire's statement is substantially correct, except as to some of the dates. The dates of the payments were not given. Some of them were made before the election of 1886. For instance, the payment to Mr. Mercier or his order. The moneys were paid for political purposes. When it is stated that some were for personal purposes, that is an error. Of course, I do not know what they did with the money. The whole amount was either political or professional expenditure."

"What about Mayor McShane's payment, was his for political or professional services?"

"Mr. McShane feels aggrieved, and I gave him the following letter for the press:—

"In my interview with the correspondent of the Empire, the name of Mr. McShane, M. P. P., is mentioned. I desire to say that no money was paid to Mr. McShane for his personal benefit in any way. I wish to keep the political entirely apart from personal matters. While Mr. McShane was Minister of Public Works I was fairly treated by him and he did not attempt to coerce me, directly or indirectly."

"That letter does not say you gave Mr. McShane no money, Mr. Whelan?"

"No; it does not. Of course, I do not know what was done with the money."

"It is stated that you were so incensed at the publication of these facts that you now threaten to take a libel suit against some of the newspapers?"

"I have no such intention. I did not desire the publication, but this matter has been before the people a long time.

A number of these items appeared in the press a few years ago, I am, and have been, besieged on all sides by reporters; and you know it is difficult to avoid saying something. My experience of those who have taken libel suits against my confreres of the press is not of a nature to induce me to go to war with newspapers."

"Do you think any of those mentioned will venture to sue any of the newspapers?"

"I am pretty sure they will not."

This closed the interview.

Our readers will thus have some idea of the depth of corruption to which the Province of Quebec has sunk.

Italy and the Vatican.

ROME, Nov. 9.—The Marquis di Rudini, the Italian premier, to day delivered a long speech at Milan. Part of his speech was devoted to the financial situation of the government and he announced that a complete equilibrium had been established in the budget. Not only were the estimated receipts fully equal to the expenditures but even a small surplus in receipts might be expected. The government would incur no new debts.

Referring to the recent pilgrim incidents in Rome the Premier declared he was firmly opposed to the abolition or modification of the Papal guarantee law. Pilgrims he said might come to Italy with no fear of molestation.

This Marquis stated that Italy's relations with foreign powers were friendly and that she would do her best to strengthen peace.

THE QUESTION OF PEACE.

The various governments of Europe were inspired with great prudence and moderation. Italy should have no fear of the grouping of friendly allied powers. Italy had renewed her adhesion to the Triple Alliance in order to guarantee a state of affairs.

Premier Rudini announced the introduction of a measure to diminish the expenses of the local corps, to settle the difficulties of Rome's civil administration and to reorganize banks of issue by liberating capital and issuing uniform notes in the form adopted by the Banker's association. Continuing the premier said that the commercial treaties with Germany, Austria and Switzerland did not injure manufactures. They favored the exportation of products.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VATICAN.

Alluding to the Vatican he said: "We have in our midst the Papacy, which sometimes assumes a threatening attitude, but its sphere of action is limited to the exercise of spiritual powers not only by a law which cannot be lightly controverted, but also by the almost unanimous consent of those who thought themselves most religious. The country's ecclesiastical policy has now become traditional. The honor and strength of the Kingdom of Italy must be scrupulously maintained. The deplorable incidents produced by a few short-sighted persons will not make us deviate from that policy. Not for so slight a matter will we raise questions affecting the constitution of the kingdom nor will we tamper with the immovable statutory laws of guarantees, the wisdom and experience of which had been proved by long experience. Italy will not fail in this respect. Owing to liberty of conscience and religious toleration it is our boast and profession that pilgrims from the whole world may be confident that the laws will protect them on coming to Rome to pay devout homage to the Pope. Strong in the present and confident in the future, we fearlessly grant the fullest liberty in Rome."

ITALY'S FRIENDSHIP FOR FRANCE.

In conclusion the Marquis said: "We have constantly striven to dispel the distrust France feels towards Italy. The recent participation of the French in the fetes at Nice upon the occasion of the unveiling in that city of the statue of the Italian patriot, Garibaldi was an assurance of the renewal of the cordiality which has always been dear to Italians."

Premier Rudini's remarks concerning the Papacy have produced a bad impression at the Vatican, the program tending to make the Pope the first subject of the King. The Pope will prepare a sharp note in reply.

The Italian newspapers with the exception of the clerical organs, are satisfied with Premier Rudini's speech, but they complain of its lack of explicitness on economic questions.