

# GOVERNOR WOOD REFUSES TO GIVE REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSIONERS TO COUNSEL FOR MR. DUGAL

Has Been in His Hands Since October 8th—People are Entitled to Constitutional Rights and Privileges, Writes Mr. Carvell—Why Are The Documents Hidden From the Public?—Is the Governor the Tool of Unscrupulous Politicians?

Woodstock, N. B., Nov. 4th, 1914.  
To the Editor Carleton Sentinel.

Dear Sir:—  
I am enclosing you herewith some correspondence which I have recently had with His Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Wood, re the report of the Royal Commissioners on the Dugal charges.

I learned about the middle of September that either an advance copy, or the substance of the report had been placed in His Honour's hands, but took no serious thought of the matter, until I learned on the 8th day of October, that the formal report, signed by the Commissioners, had been delivered to him. In common with the rest of the public of

New Brunswick, I assumed that Mr. Dugal in particular, as well as the public in general would receive these documents immediately, and after waiting eleven days, addressed my first letter to His Honour. The correspondence speaks for itself, but the last clause in his letter of the 26th of October to my mind sets forth the whole position as between himself, Mr. Flemming and the Government of the one hand, and the great public of New Brunswick on the other hand. He says as follows:

"I assure you any threats of that kind will not influence me to depart from the course which I feel my duty to pursue in connection with this matter."

Evidently His Honour and his advisers feel it is their duty to hide these important documents just as long as a patient public will allow them to do so. Whereas, from my standpoint, I feel it his duty to give the contents of these reports to the public, no matter who may be affected thereby, either for good or for evil.

Let me assure you it required some courage on the part of Mr. Dugal to take the course which he did in laying these very, very serious charges against not only a fellow-member of the House of Assembly, but also the Premier of the Province, and it was not until I had satisfied myself beyond a shadow of a doubt of his ability to prove them, that I consented to act as his chief counsel, well knowing the penalty to myself from a political standpoint, should we fail to make good. Whether Mr. Dugal and myself and our associates have made good or not, we cheerfully leave to the reading public, but I cannot understand by what logic or reason His Honour, after appointing the Royal Commission to investigate these charges, and after expending from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in so doing, now puts them in his pocket and practically says

to Mr. Dugal, myself and the public, you will have them when I get good and ready to give them to you.

Probably, the findings of the Commission may make it a little awkward or him to arrange matters with the Government. If so, that is simply his affair, and possibly misfortune, but I hope both he and the Government will not conclude, because they control practically the whole of the Legislature, that the rest of the people of this Province have no rights whatever. We are supposed to be living in a constitutional country and as such are entitled to our constitutional rights and privileges, and as I understand the situation it is not only the duty of the Governor to furnish, but the right of the public to demand such important documents as those in question.

I have exhausted all my means of getting this information but have failed. I now trust the public will take it up and in some manner obtain what has been denied me through the ordinary channels of correspondence.

Believe me,  
Sincerely yours,  
F. B. CARVELL.

Woodstock, N. B., Oct. 19th, 1914.  
Hon. Josiah Wood,  
Lieutenant-Governor Province of New Brunswick,  
Sackville, N. B.

Dear Sir:—

As Counsel for Mr. L. A. Dugal, M. L. A., I am writing you to-day to find out when I may expect copies of the reports of the Royal Commissioners appointed by you for the purpose of investigating certain charges made by Mr. Dugal.

(a) With reference to the renewal of the Crown Land Timber licenses, and,  
(b) Re Valey Railway Finance, etc.

It was announced in the papers supporting the Government on Thursday afternoon, the 8th inst., that the reports had been placed in your hands by the Secretary, Mr. George McDade, whom I met in Fredericton on that afternoon, when he informed me that he had them ready to be delivered. The Government met on Wednesday of last week, and remained in session for several days, but so far the reports have not been made public, and the Saturday papers announced that Mr. Clarke stated he had not yet received them.

I hope I am not trespassing upon your rights or exceeding my authority, but it seems to me that as Counsel for Mr. Dugal, I have the right to demand a copy of these reports, and trust I may be favored

with such not later than Wednesday of this week.

Sincerely yours,  
(Sgd) F. B. CARVELL.

Sackville, N. B., Oct. 22, 1914.  
F. B. Carvell, Esq., M. P.,  
Woodstock, N. B.

Dear Sir:—

I have your letter of 18th. October inst., requesting a copy of the report of the Royal Commissioners, upon the charges made by Mr. Dugal.

I have considered the matter, and regret I cannot accede to your request, to give you a copy of the report, before it is given to the public, I remain,

Yours truly,  
JOSIAH WOOD.

Oct. 23rd, 1914.

Hon. Josiah Wood,  
Lieutenant-Governor Province of New Brunswick,  
Sackville, N. B.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd inst., in reply to my letter of the 19th inst., in which you state that you cannot accede to my request to give me a copy of the Dugal reports before they are given to the public. Were this done immediately, then there would be no necessity of giving them to me, because in that way I would obtain the information to which I consider we are entitled.

It may be all very well from your stand-point to keep such important documents as these in your hands, but if you will consider for a moment that Mr. Dugal took his political life in his hands and assumed the responsibility of thousands of dollars for the purpose of acquainting the public of New Brunswick with the scandalous condition of affairs existing in your Government, and when you also consider that I took some chances myself in assisting him in bringing these matters to the light of day, I feel that we at least should not be compelled to wait indefinitely the result of the investigation.

While our relations have always been the most friendly possible, and I trust always will remain so, yet I cannot view this as a personal matter from your stand-point, and will be compelled to ask for this information in a more public manner than I am doing at the present time, if my request is not complied with immediately.

Believe me,  
Very Sincerely Yours,  
(Sgd) F. B. CARVELL.

Sackville, N. B., Oct. 26, 1914.  
F. B. Carvell, Esq., M. P.,



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Woodstock, N. B.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd inst., and I have carefully noted what you say. I realize fully your desire to know the result of investigation of the charges made by Mr. Dugal. I quite agree with you, also that you should not be compelled to wait an unreasonable time, before you were made acquainted with it. I hope to be able to give the reports of the Commissioners to all interested within a short time.

I regret very much that you have thought necessary to use the threatening language in the latter part of your letter. I assure you any threats of that kind will not influence me to depart from the course, which I feel my duty to pursue in connection with this matter.

Yours truly,  
JOSIAH WOOD.

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