

What will the people say, my dear Premier, when they learn that **YOU PROPOSED TO THIS SAME OFFICIAL, MR. BLAIR, THAT DURING THE INVESTIGATION HE SHOULD PLAY SICK, OR GO AWAY FOR A TIME UNTIL IT BLEW OVER, WITH THE PROMISE TO MR. BLAIR THAT HIS SALARY WOULD BE FORWARDED TO HIM REGULARLY?** Do you forget making that proposition to him over the telephone? If you do, I have a distinct recollection of receiving the message outlining the proposition that you had made to him. Mr. Blair not only told me at the time, but he informed many personal friends who can substantiate what he says.

I refused to suspend Mr. Blair because I knew the character of the man Colby who made the affidavit, and I knew also of the great pressure that had been brought to bear upon him to secure the affidavit. I knew also of the visits of Messrs. Woods and Price, the organizers and whips of the party of whose Government I was a member, to Ottawa, and their arguments, together with those of Mr. Pinder, financial and otherwise, that persuaded this man to come forward and make charges that in my mind were ridiculous and false, against my secretary of public works.

FEARFUL OF THE FACTS.

I need not discuss Mr. Teed's finding at this present time, further than to say that I have been assured by the most eminent lawyers in New Brunswick who have read it that he departed from the usual fair and honorable practice of giving every man a chance in his conduct of the investigation. Then let me recall for a moment the fact that you were so fearful of the facts that might be brought out, that you made the investigation secret and the evidence taken then, which would have been published from day to day in the newspapers, has never yet been made public, and the people do not know upon what evidence Mr. M. G. Teed made his finding.

As for your further complaint that I seemed reluctant to discuss Mr. Blair after Mr. Teed's finding, need I remind you that he was **NOT APPOINTED BY ME, BUT BY AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT AND I FELT THAT THE SAME POWER WHICH APPOINTED HIM SHOULD TAKE ACTION LOOKING TOWARDS HIS DISMISSAL.**

You are careful enough to say that the Teed report does not reflect upon me personally. That was unnecessary, my dear Premier. If Mr. Teed had discovered any thing which would have in the slightest degree reflected upon me, he would not have hesitated to say so. He did not hesitate to bring in the name of my son, and in reality to strike at the father through him; but he was not man enough, he was not fair enough, when the slightest evidence appeared touching either of us, to invite us to come to his tribunal to give evidence. I do not give the snap of my finger for the verdict of such a man.

You speak, Mr. Premier, of the determination of the Government to insist on "maintenance of high character in the public service." **AND IF THAT SENTIMENT CAME FROM ANYONE ELSE I WOULD HEARTILY APPLAUD IT; BUT LET ME RECALL FOR YOUR INFORMATION SOME THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, WHICH DO NOT SEEM TO AGREE WITH THE LOFTINESS OF PURPOSE THAT YOU HAVE EXPRESSED.**

You surely cannot be in earnest in holding that view, **WHEN YOU PERMITTED A. J. H. STEWART, A MEMBER OF YOUR LEGISLATURE, CONDEMNED BY A ROYAL COMMISSIONER, TO SIT IN THE HOUSE NOT ONLY AS LONG AS YOU DID THIS SESSION, BUT TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO HAVE A MOTION CONDEMNING HIM RULED OUT FROM THE CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMBERS.**

"ROTTENNESS AND CORRUPTION."

Does it agree with this purpose that you should permit Mr. James K. Pinder, another member, to remain a representative in the Legislature, after being **SO UTTERLY CONDEMNED OF LOOTING THE PUBLIC TREASURY OF THE DOMINION OF MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS?**

AND WHAT ABOUT MARTIN J. ROBICHAUD, ANOTHER MEMBER CONDEMNED? And what had you to say on the floors of the House with reference to the report of Mr. W. B. Chandler, **WHICH FOUND SO MUCH ROTTENNESS AND CORRUPTION AMONG THE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE OFFICIALS SPECIALLY SELECTED AND APPOINTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTING YOU?** Do not lay at my door the faults of others. I have protested to you and to my colleagues again and again against this system of having road supervisors and structural superintendents appointed solely by the members supporting the administration. **IT HAD LED TO GRAFT AND PERJURY AND THEFT,** some very notable instances of which have not yet been made public.

Do you remember, Mr. Premier, that I sent my secretary to you with the statement of Hon. Dr. Landry, your Provincial Secretary, that it was not customary in Kent county for road foremen or superintendents to "kiss the book" when they swore to their accounts, and therefore, assuming it a light matter when certain checks were returned to my department after the supervisor had forwarded me a statement of material purchased and all work done, solemnly sworn to before a justice of the peace, when that statement was brought to me by my secretary, I was so astounded that I directed him to go to you as Premier of this province and to inform you of the condition of affairs as disclosed by the statement of the honorable Provincial Secretary, a member for the county of Kent?

If your memory serves you, Mr. Premier, you will recall the apparent astonishment and indignation that you felt at this disclosure by my secretary, and your message to me through him that I should prosecute the offenders. When that message was given to me, I myself went to your office and saw you personally, wishing to have the assurance myself from your own lips that I should proceed against these offenders who were stealing from the public treasury; and then, do you remember you told me to wait awhile, not to take any action until you saw the Attorney General—**AND I HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE MATTER FROM YOU SINCE.**

Was that "maintaining the high character of the public services" which you say to me is one of the reasons now for asking for my resignation? I do not think so; but if anything else were needed to prove that **YOU ARE WHOLLY INSINCERE IN YOUR REASONS AND YOUR MOTIVES,** let me recall to your memory the demand made by Mr. E. S. Carter, the Opposition organizer, upon your royal commissioner, W. B. Chandler, **TO INVESTIGATE THE COLLECTION OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM LIQUOR LICENSEES UNDER OUR GOVERNMENT WHILE THE LEGISLATURE WAS IN SESSION** and after some days' consideration, the refusal of Mr. Chandler to do so.

Who prompted that refusal? Would not one word from you to Royal Commissioner Chandler have permitted him, and encouraged him, to investigate

SO IMPORTANT A MATTER AS THAT, and thus carry out the "preservation and maintenance of a high character in the public service that you are so desirous to continue?"

In proof of Mr. Carter's charges, Mr. Richard Sullivan, a wholesale liquor merchant of St. John told me a few days ago that **\$6,000 OR THEREABOUTS WAS COLLECTED FROM THE LIQUOR INTERESTS AND PAID OVER, AND THAT \$2,000 MORE WAS DEMANDED, AND THEY REFUSED TO PAY SUCH ADDITIONAL DEMAND.**

THE PATRIOTIC POTATOES.

Again, the refusal of Mr. Chandler to investigate the purchase of patriotic potatoes, which we all know was mixed with graft and exorbitance—and no less a person than the Honorable Provincial Secretary himself told me at a meeting of the Government in the City of St. John in December last, that the books of the province had not been closed because, forsooth, the Hon. Mr. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, had told him that **THEY WERE WAITING FOR A REFUND OF \$10,000 FROM B. FRANK SMITH AND HIS ASSOCIATES BECAUSE OF THE FUSS MADE BY THE OPPOSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE PATRIOTIC POTATOES.**

And do you further recall, Mr. Premier, that your colleague, Hon. Mr. Murray, said to Dr. Landry, **"FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T TELL MORRISSY OF THIS?"**

If you are still of the same mind to maintain that "high character in the public service," I would suggest to you, Mr. Premier, that you investigate the activities of your chief organizer and government whip, Mr. H. W. Woods, who, it is claimed, and I believe correctly claimed, brought \$4,000 to the city of Fredericton at the time of the election of Mr. Guthrie, for the purpose of assisting toward that end, and, Mr. Premier, because of that election, there was a note for \$5,000 discounted in a city bank here, a note which was referred to when Colonel P. A. Guthrie, M. P. P., spoke in the House this session, a note which was renewed from time to time, apparently, and one of the payments made upon it, \$500, was furnished by the secretary or deputy minister of the Agricultural Department, the minister of which had full knowledge of the transaction?

SOME PLAIN TALK.

I speak plainly, Mr. Premier, **FOR THE TIME HAS GONE BY TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS IN ANY OTHER WAY.**

I KNOW OF OTHER TRANSACTIONS THAT WILL DETRACT GREATLY FROM THE EFFORTS YOU ARE MAKING IN "INSISTING ON THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CHARACTER IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE." I have another reference to make because of the statement in which you state "you have displayed a disposition in many matters to act alone rather than in conjunction and harmony with the other members of the Government." The latter part of that statement is, in a measure, and only in a measure, correct. When I felt that my department was not being used in the interests of the public, a feeling that became a certainty with me during last summer and fall, I did feel a certain reluctance in joining with my colleagues in pursuing such a course. That reluctance became intensified early during this session, when I saw that **A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT WAS BEING MADE ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FALSE INFORMATION TO PEOPLE IN ANSWER TO OPPOSITION INQUIRIES.**

I am old-fashioned enough to believe that the rights of the people are above everything; that we are only stewards of the public, and when I became sure from personal experience in my own department **THAT THE TRUE ANSWERS, WHICH WERE MADE UP BY MY OFFICIALS FROM THE RECORDS THERE, WERE BEING CHANGED AND FALSIFIED BY MY COLLEAGUES IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, AND RETURNED TO MY DEPARTMENT TO BE RE-WRITTEN AND GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE HOUSE ASSEMBLY,** I determined to put a stop to it, if possible.

For this purpose, and with this end in view, Mr. Premier, I went to the highest authority in the province, His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Wood. I was one of his advisers, the same as you, and I **TOLD HIS HONOR WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE. I INFORMED HIM THAT FALSE INFORMATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE AND THAT THE TIME HAD COME WHEN I FELT THAT I COULD NOT STAND FOR IT,** and would have to secede from the Government.

He told me that he was very much surprised at the information I gave him, and desired me to remain as one of his ministers for a while longer. It was in deference to that request, Mr. Premier, that I remained in your Government.

But I may recall to you another circumstance which occurred on the very same day that I saw His Honor the Governor. You will remember coming into my room in the hotel shortly after luncheon and asking me to answer an Opposition inquiry concerning the extras paid to Contractors McVey & Sons upon the suspension bridge, St. John. You will also remember, Mr. Premier, that I stated to you you **COULD TAKE THAT QUESTION TO THOSE WHO HAD BEEN LYING FOR YOU.** You left me then in anger, because I refused to do that which I felt would prove me false to my trust, to the people who had elected me, and who regarded me as looking after their interests.

That question was answered and you well know how it was answered; **BUT THE EXPLANATION OF HOW AND WHY THAT \$10,200 WAS PAID, INSTEAD OF THE AMOUNT ALLOWED BY THE ENGINEER, \$635.66, HAS YET TO BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Working out of harmony with you? How often have I been consulted in matters of importance during this last year? Did you or your colleagues when you were settling the important affairs of the Valley Railway consult with John Morrissy? Did your acting Premier and Mr. Baxter and Dr. Landry notify John Morrissy that they were changing the route of the Valley Railway? No. You know that you did not. **YOU AND THEY ARE THE MEN WHO HAVE IGNORED THE PRINCIPLES OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.** You have flouted your colleague whom you have threatened from time to time, and did not dare to dismiss because you felt that you would insult a particular class and the particular friends whom he was supposed to represent in the House and in your Government.

I regret exceedingly that I have felt it necessary in justice to myself to write the lader of the government of which I have been a member for eight years, such a letter, but, as you truly, observe, your communication to me agrees with my personal inclinations, and I beg therefore to notify you that in compliance with your request, I have placed my resignation in the hands of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

I am yours truly,

(Signed) JOHN MORRISSY.