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THE WEEKLY SUN.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 2, 1898.

THE DRUMMOND INVESTIGATION.

The government organs seem to be anxious to make it appear that somebody has backed down in the Drummond railway matter. Now where are the indications of such a movement? The opposition party in the house of commons opposed the measure last year. The same members oppose it still. The senate threw out the bill last year, and would, doubtless, do the same again. The senate last year proposed an investigation into the history of the transaction. This year the senate began again where the matter was left last year, and a special committee has already been appointed to carry on the enquiry. No sign of a change of opinion is discernable in these events.

But the ministers and their organs claim that Mr. Foster and other liberal conservatives now say that they do not charge corruption or personal boodling on the part of any one connected with the transaction. The fact, however, is that nothing said last year in the house of commons has been in the least degree changed or modified. The measure was attacked because it proposed to give Mr. Greenshields more than a million dollars for which he gave no value. It was proposed to pay him a million dollars more than it cost Mr. Greenshields, and more than that sum in excess of the price for which the railway would have been sold to others. Whether this was boodling or not is a question of interpretation, and it is also a question of interpretation whether a coincident payment by the contractor of large sums of money for campaign purposes, and the assistance rendered by him to Mr. Tarte's sons, were connected with the railway contract.

The present complaint is not that the government proposes an investigation as to the suggestions of corruption, but because the ministers decline to allow the inquiry to cover the question of the original cost of the road, its value to the Greenshields company, and the price for which it may have been offered before the government bought it. This is the root of the whole question, and it is hardly a back-down for the opposition members to want to know the bottom facts. It will be time enough for Mr. Blair and Mr. Tarte to boast when the inquiry is over.

COST OF A SECRET BARGAIN.

The people of this country are now in a position to estimate the loss to the country by the Mackenzie-Mann deal. It is not of the first importance to know whether Sir William Van Horne made fully known to Mr. Sifton the plans and propositions which Hamilton Smith communicated to him as a mutual friend. Possibly Sir William did not give his friend much assistance, but Mr. Sifton has admitted that he was infomed of Hamilton Smith's desire to construct a railway from the Pacific toward the Yukon. He knew that Hamilton Smith's associates had spent the summer exploring the country. Yet we have the minister's own statement that he never so much as entered into communication with him, and it is learned from Hamilton Smith himself that the contract was made before his syndicate even knew that the government was prepared to receive offers. In short, it is proved that the opportunity was only open to one firm. Therefore, when the government and its organs dwelt upon the alleged circumstance that Hamilton Smith withheld his proposition so long as the offer was open, they suggest a state of things that never existed. There was never a day when the minister was known to be ready to receive offers. He never invited them, except privately, and then, so far as is known, only invited those to whom the contract was given. He never even let it be known publicly that the Stickine route was the only one to be considered. And no contractor but Mackenzie ever dreamed that the bargain would be closed before the offer was open.

If the opportunity had been open and Hamilton Smith had withheld his offer until a contract had been made, his proposition might now be dismissed. But as all the circumstances go to show that he was ready to make the same proposition three months ago as he makes now, it is obviously fair to compare his offer with the bargain that has been made. The difference between them is what the country has lost by the secret deal.

The comparison is worked out with some care in our Ottawa letter. The sum of it is that there are two routes in question from the Pacific coast. One has the advantage of directness, easy despatch, freedom from obstruction in river navigation, and escape from the inconvenience of transhipment. The other, which has been chosen, is supposed to be safer from obstruction by United States regulations, though it is not absolutely secure. The government is giving Mackenzie and Mann the right to select 4,000,000 acres of gold lands, and a transport monopoly, as a reward for constructing 160 miles of railway by the Stickine route. Hamilton Smith offered to provide this same road for a subsidy of 1,000,000 acres. He offers for 2,000,000 acres to provide this same light railway, together with a more substantial line of 233 miles by the Dalton route. He offers to take the land allowance for the longer line in blocks as they come instead of demanding his choice.

Supposing, however, that there were no difference in the method of locating the lands, it is established that Hamilton Smith would have built the two roads, each having special advantages, and would have accepted for both one-half the land subsidy that the secret agreement gives Mr. Sifton's friends for building one. This would leave 2,000,000 acres in possession of the public after the two roads were built.

If the government was determined to get rid of 2,000,000 acres, a contract might have been made for both roads. If it was thought necessary to get rid of 4,000,000 acres, the remaining 2,000,000 is enough to procure the construction of a genuine all-Canadian route on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains straight through four or five hundred miles of fine agricultural lands, and onward to the Yukon gold fields. This is a road that the ministers have declared must next be constructed. It is the route by which in time all the food and supplies from the east will go into the gold fields. It is probable that before the session ends, a vote will be proposed towards this work. Sooner or later large subsidies are sure to be proposed for the Edmonton-Yukon railway.

By its most astounding bargain the government has given to one short tramway, connecting a shallow river which reaches the sea in United States territory with a line of shallow lakes at the headquarters of the Yukon, land enough to pay for three railways approaching the Yukon from different directions. The people are losing these three million acres of land. They will still have to pay for the other railways that are to be built.

It is a vicious policy to lock up these mineral lands, and to give any private person the right to choose all the best areas for six years to come. But when the ministers decided to take these lands away from the people and give them to two persons, they might have tried to get some decent return for them. When the government made Mr. Sifton's cronies a Christmas present of 3,000,000 acres of the choicest gold lands in the world's favorite gold fields, they committed a crime for which they will be condemned by every just Canadian. On the January day when the Sun first announced the terms of the disgraceful bargain, it observed that the miners and prospectors would curse the day on which the government first met Mackenzie and Mann. A month of observation shows that the curse will be re-echoed by all classes of people, except those that are directly or indirectly in the job.

HARBOR WORKS.

The mayor of Montreal has laid before the harbor commissioners of that port a resolution calling upon the federal government to assume the construction and cost of permanent harbor works necessary to make that city the national port of Canada. By this means, he points out, the traffic through the port would be saved from the additional burden of charges that it might be necessary to levy if the city itself had to make the improvements. His worship incidentally directed attention to the money Montreal had already spent in the work of harbor improvement. The commissioners have taken a few days to consider the proposition. It may be remarked that all the arguments Mayor Prefontaine can present in favor of federal aid for the port of Montreal, the summer port of Canada, will apply with equal force to the case of St. John, the winter port of Canada.

The interstate commerce commission has come to the help of the Grand Trunk in its fight with the Canadian Pacific for the Klondyke passenger traffic by suspending the long and short haul clause of the Interstate Commerce act in favor of the G. T. R. and its American connections.

The death of Mr. Perry, M. P. for West Prince, P. E. I., is the ninth in the present parliament, senators included.

THE MAINE WRECK.

Court of Enquiry Now in Session at Key West.

Nothing Yet Known Publicly as to the Cause of Disaster.

An Officer of the Vessel Believes the Ship Was Blown Up by Design.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—At the close of office hours today the following telegram came to the navy department from Admiral Sicard at Key West, in the following terms:

"Court of enquiry will commence session at Key West today. They must resume session at Havana to obtain evidence of divers after further work upon the wreck."

This communication sets at rest rumors current for some days that the court was not to return to Havana for the reason that it had discovered the cause of the sinking of the Maine was not an accident. One important deduction to be drawn from the message is that the report of the court of inquiry can scarcely be expected for several weeks to come. The court will be occupied at Key West for some days at least in taking the testimony of the survivors there. Then upon the return to Havana it is expected that a good deal of time must elapse before the divers can get through the mud which now encompasses the lower part of the Maine and examine the bottom. After this is done the court must deliberate in order to secure an agreement upon its findings. The prevalent belief at the navy department is that up to this moment the court has now only undertaken to compare notes and endeavor to reach an agreement.

A Cuban mail was received during the day, and Secretary Long caused it to be given to the reporters. It was made up of one letter from Captain Sampson, dated at Havana Feb. 23, and although it is simply a statement of events already reported by telegraph, one fact is significant, viz., the statement that the testimony of certain civilian witnesses before the court would be of importance. The letter is as follows:

"Sir—The court has taken the testimony of all the officers of the Maine still here. Tomorrow we will take such testimony as the divers have accumulated. The Right Arm arrived here this morning and reported to Captain Sigsbee according to the orders.

I trust some wrecking company will be given the entire job, as no other plan will be feasible.

There are two citizens in the harbor who have signified their willingness to testify, although they have nothing important. After taking this evidence and that of the divers, I propose to return to Key West and take the evidence of the officers and men there.

It may be necessary to return here after further progress has been made with the divers."

The despatch that came from Key West about great activity and the observance of unusual precautions among the few soldiers quartered there was received with amusement at military headquarters here. It was said that no orders had gone from this city to explain the bustle, but there was the best reason to suspect that the commandant was slightly brushing up the post and putting his best foot forward against the expected appearance there on his tour of inspection of Gen. Merritt.

The gunboat Wilmington sailed today from Laguayra for Barbados, travelling over the ground covered a few days before by the Cincinnati and Castine. All of the boats are slowly cruising around in the Caribbean, and will be so employed until April, when they will go south again.

Secretary Long said at the close of office hours that no orders had gone out to send another warship to Havana.

At the White House the utmost quiet prevails. Many offers have come from organizations and individuals of their services in case of a conflict. Some of the congressional callers also have stated to the president that their states were ready to furnish full quotas of men.

Secretaries Long and Alger and Representative Dingley were among the president's visitors today, but it was stated that they had nothing of imporance on the Maine affair to discuss with him. Mr. Dingley spoke afterward in strong terms against reports that financial circles in New York were being sounded as to the readiness with which funds could be raised in an emergency.

Secretary Gage declared that the published statement that he was making preparations for a bond issue, and that the bureau of engraving and printing was preparing the plate, was unqualifiedly false. No such action has ever been considered he said.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 23.—The court of inquiry reconvened at two o'clock this afternoon. Lieut. Holman, who testified at Havana, was again called. Lieut. of Marines Catlin gave his evidence quickly, and was followed by Boatswain Larkin, Gunner Hill and Carpenter Holms. The two latter were on shore at the time of the explosion and could tell little of value.

At ten minutes past three the court adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

Judge Advocate Marix said: "The stenographers have all they can transcribe in record form and there is no use of our working longer today."

In reply to a question as to what would be done with witnesses when no longer of service to the court, he said no decision had been reached on that point, but one would be shortly.

Capt. Sampson seemed satisfied with the day's work, but said nothing could be given out.

After the court room was cleared for the day, Capt. Sampson had a short interview with Rear Admiral Sicard, and then returned to the Iowa. Capt. Chadwick and Lieut. Commander Potter were taken on board the New York.

Few knew more than was known this morning. An officer of the Maine, however, who had been examined by the court during the day, talked at length with the correspondent of the Associated Press. "I can't tell you," he said, "what line of questioning was adopted, but the court will find, I believe, that the Maine was blown up by design, though I don't think it will be able to ascertain exactly how.

The court's finding will be based on negative rather than positive evidence.

"By this I mean that all the testimony heard so far has bit by bit frustrated the theories of those who think the explosion was of internal origin. This negative evidence is so strong and so general that I see no possibility of the court deciding that the explosion was internal.

"The only alternative then left for the court is to fall back on evidence which points to the intentional blowing up of the Maine. This, I think, will be done unless the court formulates a theory of its own or declares that it does not know how the disaster occurred, both of which conjectures I think improbable."

As bearing on the value of the opinion of the officer in question, it must be borne in mind that he was before the court for about fifteen minutes only, and that he has at all times expressed himself as confident that the Maine's fate was not due to accident.

Members of the court, when the substance of the interview was brought to their attention, declined to have anything to say. All the high naval and military officials here, when asked crucial questions, invariably relapse into a state of polite ignorance.

HAVANA, Feb. 23.—Only one body has been recovered today and it has not been identified, though there are hopes that it may be later. With any others recovered in time, it will go with the wounded on the Bache to the Dry Tortugas and Key West. On her next trip north, the Bache will carry to Key West the first company of wounded taken to the Dry Tortugas.

The Spanish divers did not made their examination today. Captain Sigsbee examined them and probably will be advised today as to where they will begin the investigation. He was much gratified at recovering today, in good condition, his order of the Red Eagle (Prussian), and the gold medal presented him by the International Fisheries Exhibition in London in 1883.

Lieut. Commander Wainwright, the executive officer of the Maine, who was almost worn out with constant work on the wreck, had a good rest yesterday, and says he feels now like a new man. Capt. Sigsbee reports that the work of the divers today was slow and must necessarily continue slow, owing to the difficulty of making an impression upon the mass of heavy debris.

Late today Capt. McGee of the Right Arm, received orders from the contractors to hire such lighters as are necessary to remove the debris from the wreck. This will facilitate the work of removing the dead and generally hasten operations.

Senator Proctor, who has spent most of the day in-doors writing private letters and reading, says his visit will be too brief to make his observations of any interest to the public, and, therefore, he has nothing to offer for publication.

LONDON, March 1.—The Daily News, commenting editorially this morning on the relations between the United States and Spain, says:

"Spain can expect no support, moral or otherwise, from England against the United States. She has ruined Cuba as she has ruined or lost every other colony by the grossest corruption, cruelty and maladminstration; and she must be left to settle the account for it with those whom it may concern without any aid or sympathy on our part."

The Standard in an editorial on the same general topic highly praises President McKinley's statesmanlike moderation, and recognizes that "it would be only human nature that proof of the Maine's having been blown up from the outside should engender a dangerous war feeling in America."

Sir Edward James Reed, the eminent naval expert, writes to the Times this morning expressing the opinion that the Maine could be refloated for a tithe of her cost.

SUNBURY CO.

SHEFFIELD, Sunbury Co., Feb. 22.—Mrs. Thomas Bridges of Lilley's Landing, "travellers' home," has just returned to her family in Sheffield proper, after visiting sons in Maugerville and her father, the Hon. W. E. Perley, and sisters in Oromocto. Her daughters celebrated her "home coming" with a very creditable tea party. Mr. and Mrs. Howland Corbett of Carleton Co. are he guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thompson this week. Mr. Page and sister of Carleton Co. are visiting the Rev. Mr. Parkins. Miss Hattie Purdy of Jemseg is spending the week with Miss Laura Bridges of Lower Sheffield.

The snow is that deep and the country so blackaded with snow that there are one or two lumber operators on Little River, Sunbury Co., whose camps are inaccessable with teams. Provisions for the use of the party, and produce must be taken to them by men with hand sleds or toboggans.

44 and 46 Pearl Street,
New York, February, 10,1898.

* * * * My certificate (Certified Public Accountant) was the seventh issued by the State. There are only 120 in the entire State (N. Y.) holding certificates, so that doesn't speak badly for the methods of teaching in the Saint John Business College. * * * *

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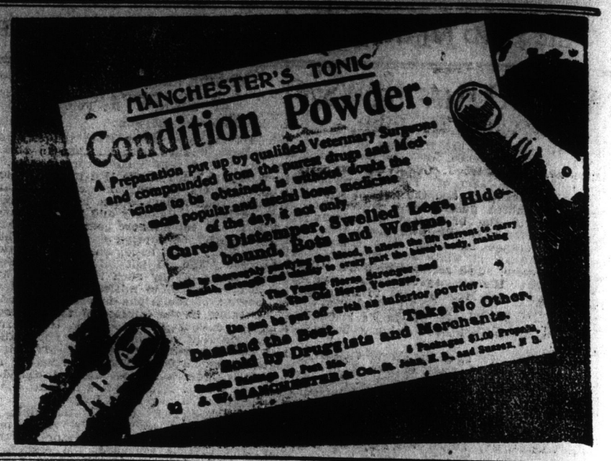

CARLETON CO.

WOODSTOCK, Feb. 28.—The snow is so exceptionally deep that work in the woods is practically hung up.

Last summer on the occasion of the celebration of the Queen's jubilee L. P. Fisher offered to give $5,000 towards a public library if, within eighteen months, the townspeople would raise another $5,000. The announcement was received with applause. In the early fall a public meeting was held to consider ways and means of profiting by Mr. Fisher's offer. The opinion was expressed by many at the meeting that the necessary $5,000 would be easily forthcoming. Resolutions were passed and committees duly appointed, and so it appears to have ended. It was brought out, however, that the old John W. Connell bequest in lands and money, which might be devoted towards a library or public park, would now amount to between four and five thousand dollars. There is another sum of money, the old Mechanics' institute fund, which the town has in trust, amounting to several thousands. Altogether it was estimated that if Mr. Fisher's donation was met by the public with the offer of a similar amount, something like $20,000 would be available. Of late a scheme has been proposed by which the town may have a beautiful public park, room for a public library, an art gallery and museum. On Connell street in the centre of the town is the old Chas. Connell building, surrounded by handsome grounds. Since the death of Mrs. Connell the house is practically unocoupied, and the heirs are anxious to dispose of it. It has been suggested that the town buy this property with the money already available to the town council for such a purpose. It is understood that the Connell family would be pleased by such a use of the property, and it is not likely that the price asked would be anything more than fair. The council could not do a wiser thing than at least make overtures to the heirs, with the view of ascertaining the cost of the property. It is not as if the council would be called upon to raise money. The John W. Connell bequest was made for the public good, but the public so far has derived no benefit from it. The Mechanics' institute fund is held in trust by the town, and must be forthcoming from the town when the citizens so require. It would add immensely to the attraction of Woodstock as a place of residence if in its heart was a park, with a museum, art gallery and library. The Connell estate exactly fills the requirements. Some of the councillors have been spoken to, and they appear to favor the scheme. All depends of course on the price which would be asked for the estate. And there is good reason to suppose that the price asked would not be exorbitant.

NORTHUMBERLAND CO.

NORTHESK, Northumberland Co., Feb. 22.—Bass fishing is a failure on the river this season.

There are a few landings of logs along the river, but nothing comparatively speaking to what there was last winter.

Miss Janie Brander paid a visit to her home last week. Rev. Mr. Murray attended a session meeting in Douglastown on Monday, 21st.

The snow is so deep at present that the farmers have discontinued hauling fire wood.

On Monday, the 14th, Robert McKay, an old resident and native of this place, died, aged 82 years. His father came from Scotland and settled here just about the time this part of the country was opened up. Mr. McKay was a hard working industrious citizen. His remains were laid beside those of his wife in the Baptist burying ground at Whitneyville. Rev. Mr. Clarke of Newcastle performed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Nevil Whitney buried their infant daughter on Friday, the 17th. Much sympathy is felt for the parents in their sad bereavement.

Mrs. William Rae's children are down with croup. Mrs. John De Armond is suffering with a slight attack of bronchitis. Mrs. H. Cowperthwaite is visiting Mrs. Evered Goodfellow of South Esk.

HONEST HELP FREE!

An old clergyman, deploring the fact that so many men are being imposed upon by unscrupulous quacks, is willing to inform any man who is weak and nervous or suffering from various effects of errors or excesses, how to obtain a perfect and permanent cure. Having nothing to sell, he asks for no money, but is desirous for humanity's sake to help the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. Perfect secrecy assured. Address with stamp, REV. A. H. MACFARLANE, Franktown, Ontario.

OVERLOOKED.

(From Answers.)

A story is told of a certain committee meeting in which the proceedings commenced with noise, and gradually became uproarious. At last one of the disputants, losing all control over his emotions, exclaimed to his opponent:

"Sir, you are the biggest ass that I ever had the misfortune to set eyes upon!"

"Order, order!" said the chairman, gravely. "You seem to forget that I am in the room."

FREDERICTON.

The Divorce Court—Soldiers Under Court Martial—Oddfellows' Anniversary.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 28.—In the divorce court this afternoon, Mr. Vanwart, Q. C., for plaintiff withdrew the record and Mr. Gregory, Q. C., for defendant, moved to dismiss the libel with costs. It is understood that the defendant will now take her innings and institute an action against her husband for divorce. About twenty witnesses were in attendance.

Corp. Ross, Pte. Harris and Bugler Kiddy of the R. R. C. I. were tried before a court martial today composed of Major Cropley, Captain Maxwell and Captain Thacker. It is understood they pleaded guilty. The findings were forwarded to headquarters at Ottawa.

Victoria lodge, Odd Fellows, celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary this evening by a very interesting musical entertainment.

LITTLE BOY JACK.

The little boy Jack was a Jack o' Hearts,
For every one loved the lad,
And the birds from near and foreign parts
Were some of the friends he had.
The man in the moon was his friend at night;
When little Jack's prayers were said
And his doting mother had dimmed the light
And cuddled him up in bed,
He'd lie and talk to his friend in the skies,
Through the casement open wide,
And ask if the stars were not the eyes
Of good little boys who had died.

O, the moon man laughed at this odd conceit
Of his little boy friend on earth,
And the air to him seemed passing sweet
With the ring of his childish mirth.
But once when the moon rose over the hill
And shone on cottage wall,
The birds on the neighboring trees were still,
And a gloom hung over all.
Then the moon man wondered much of Jack,
And his heart with doubt was sore,
Till he saw two stars in the sky at his back
That he never had seen before.

T. A. Daly.

A PRETTY GOOD WORLD.

This world's a pretty good sort of world,
Taking it all together.
In spite of the grief and sorrow we meet,
In spite of the gloomy weather,
There are friends to love and hopes to cheer
And plenty of compensation
For every ache of those who make
The best of the situation.

There are quiet nooks for lovers of books,
With nature in happy union,
There are cool retreats from the noontide heats
Where souls may have sweet communion,
And if there's a spot where the sun shines not
There's always a lamp to light it,
And if there's a wrong we know ere long
That the God above will right it.

So it is for us to make a fuss
Because of life's sad mischances
Nor to wear ourselves out to bring about
A change in our circumstances.
For the world's a pretty good sort of world,
And He to whom we are debtor
Appoints our place and supplies the grace
To help us to make it better.

—Josephine Pollard in New York Ledger.

THE PARTITION OF CHINA.

The heathen Chinee! The heathen Chinee!
What an opening for Christian exertion we see!
Then hie for the flowery land of the east,
Like vultures we'll swoop on the promising feast.
Man, man all the fleets of the brave and the free,
And bombard all the coasts of the heathen Chinee.

Let the Russians go here and the Russians go there
But, by jingo, we'll each hew a slice, we declare,
We English are bound to look after our trade.
There are men to be plundered and cash to be made.
With the "maxims" of christendom soon we shall see
A wonderful change in that heathen Chinee!

Then come, all ye teachers and preachers and fighters,
Backed up by the press and its wonderful writers,
And give to this darkened and downtrodden nation
A touch of the blessings of civilization.
When Russians are robbing and Germans are raiding,
Never let it be said that we were not aiding.
The pride of the land and the queen of the sea,
We'll do what we like with that heathen Chinee!

We'll rob him and shoot him and burn each small village,
And give every town which is larger to pillage,
To the conquest, ye Christians, sail swift o'er the sea,
And make what you can of the heathen Chinee!

—Westminster Gazette.

GERMAN THREATS TO BRITAIN.

If England thinks fit to oppose Germany in China, Germany will pay her in her own coin in Egypt. The warnings of the British press are, therefore, quite acceptable. As soon as France is quite sure of Germany's support—which probably includes the co-operation of Austria and Italy—France will not hesitate to demand a regulation of the Egyptian question, and that would be rather embarrassing, "from a British point of view."—Vossische Zeitung, Berlin.

MR. SIFTON'S BARGAIN.

(Toronto Telegram.)

References by the Globe to the "youthful minister of the interior" are entirely superfluous. The extreme youth and inexperience of Hon. Clifford Sifton are quite sufficiently emphasized by the bad character of the bargain he made with Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann.