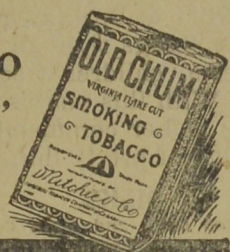


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SOME CORRESPONDENCE READ IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Lieutenant Governor Discussed the Sale of Old Government House Property—Thinks Some Provision Should be Made to Provide Him With an Official Residence—An Interesting Matter to Fredericton.

In the Legislature on Tuesday Hon. and Hon. E. A. Smith, ex-minister of lands and mines.
Mr. Foster, after introducing the bill to provide for the sale of Old Government House property read the following correspondence which passed between Lieutenant Governor Pugsley and Hon. Dr. J. A. Smith, minister of lands and mines, Fredericton, N. B.
My Dear Minister—There has been

submitted to me for approval your recommendation that a conveyance be made to his majesty (on behalf of the government of Canada) of the old government house and grounds. I observe that the proposed order is silent as to the utilization of the proceeds in view of the fact that the property is held by the crown in trust for such residence, and that the proceeds of the property, if sold, are subject to a like trust, it seemed to me that a duty devolved upon me as lieutenant-governor to endeavor to see that the trust shall be carried out either in its exact terms, or in spirit, at all events I am not greatly interested personally, as my term of office will end in a little more than two years, but I owe a duty in this connection to my successors in the office.

I have not seen anything in the report of the discussion which took place in the legislature at the recent session to justify the expectation that it is the intention to provide for the erection of a new residence either in the near or remote future—if at all. The question then arises, which I think should be settled before the transfer of the property is completed as to what provision should be made for the accommodation of the lieutenant-governor in case an official residence is not provided. It is reasonable that, so far as possible, he should be placed in the same position as he would be if the terms of the trust were strictly carried out. I cannot help thinking that you will agree with me that it is. This could be accom-

plished by keeping the principal resulting from the sale recently made to the city of Fredericton and of the proposed sale to the dominion government intact, and placing the interest at the disposal of the lieutenant-governor for the time being to himself provide a residence to be approved of by the minister of lands or the committee of the executive council—the residence to be conveniently located and suitable for the performance of those social functions (including the entertainment of distinguished visitors to the province) which is fairly to be expected of one occupying the position of the representative of the sovereign within the province, and which I think the people would like to see properly performed. Another method which might be adopted would be for the minister to himself control the expenditures in connection with the maintenance of the residence and grounds, including an allowance for rental and other necessary expenses, including in case the residence were not at the capital, such expenses as are involved by a temporary residence at Fredericton during the session of the legislature traveling expenses, etc.

You are aware of the provisions made in the other provinces for their lieutenant-governors, and I need not point out to you the fact that the position of the lieutenant-governor of this province is much less desirable than that of the lieutenant-governor of any other province of Canada. It is, I think, worthy of note that the salaries of the lieutenant-governors remain at the amounts fixed many years ago, when the cost of living was not more than one-third of what it is at present. Other provinces have, from time to time, by allowances from the provincial funds to meet various necessary expenses in connection with the office, made it easier for their lieutenant-governors to meet the changed conditions. The same cannot be said of New Brunswick.

I am not, however, asking for any improvement in the status of the office so far as the matter rests in the judgment of the government and legislative assembly, but in respect to this special and important trust the case is entirely different.

I am, my dear minister,
Yours very truly,

(Signed) WM. PUGSLEY
The Minister's Reply
To which the minister made the following reply:

Shediac, June 25, 1920.
Honorable William Pugsley, Lieutenant-Governor, St. John, N. B.
Dear Governor Pugsley,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 21st inst.

There can be no doubt that the proceeds of the sale of the government house property can only be used for the purpose of purchasing a residence for the governor of the province. I do not remember anything being said at the time the act was passed authorizing the sale of the property as to the disposition of the proceeds in case of sale, except that the money was to remain in trust in a special fund.

I would presume the receipts from the sale made to the dominion government and the city of Fredericton, amounting to some \$52,000, would not be sufficient to purchase a suitable residence for the governor and leave a sufficient balance for the upkeep of some.

I quite agree with your idea that the interest on the principal might be utilized in assisting in the expenses incurred by the governor in properly keeping up the dignity of the office and if possible, to rent a suitable house in Fredericton during the session of the Legislature.

I shall be pleased to bring this matter before the government at the July meeting and hope conclusions may be reached which will meet with the approval of your honor.

I have the honor, sir, to be,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. A. SMITH

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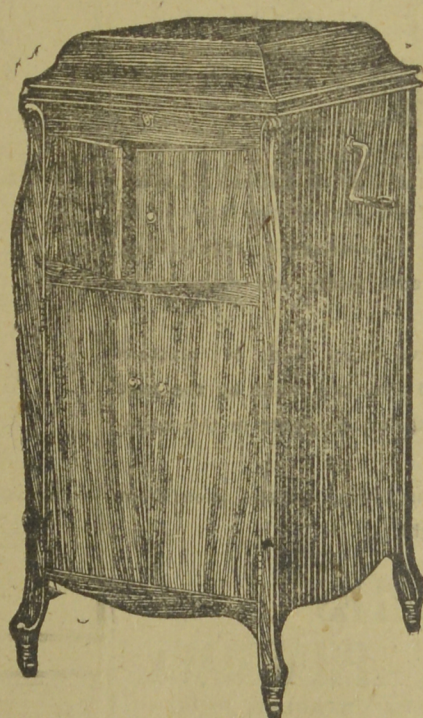
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