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Fresh west and northwest winds. Fair today and Saturday.

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Lieut. Gov. Pugsley Resigned, W. F. Todd of St. Stephen Appointed

CHANGE CREATES LITTLE SURPRISE

The Ex-Governor will Resume the Practice of Law at St. John.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—Hon. William Pugsley, who has filled the post of Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick since Nov. 8, 1918, resigned today to be succeeded. It was learned here tonight, by William F. Todd, of St. Stephen.

The public future of Hon. Mr. Pugsley who played such a prominent part in federal politics as Minister of Public Works under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is still shrouded in mystery, although many times in the last few weeks it has been rumored that he would, after completing his second term as Lieutenant Governor, become a member of the upper chamber of the Dominion Parliament. He paid a visit to the capital a short time ago, but it is understood it had no connection with any prospective political motive on his part. Many have advanced his name in connection with a Senatorship, arguing that he would be a valuable addition to government representation there.

No vacancy now exists in the Senate, but it is believed that when a change in Maritime representation in the Senate is made necessary Hon. Mr. Pugsley will have first chance for appointment.

William F. Todd is the son of the late Freeman H. and Adeline Boardman Todd and was born at St. Stephen, N. B., on May 2, 1854. He was married on Oct. 1, 1879 to Miss Ethel J. Bolton, daughter of John Bolton, who was a member of the House of Commons soon after Confederation. He has three children, Mrs. N. Marks Mills, of St. Stephen, and Misses Adeline Boardman and Mildred B. Mr. Todd was a member of the Provincial Legislature for the term beginning in 1899 and was elected to the House of Commons as a supporter of the Liberal party in the general elections of 1911, 1917, and 1921, but was unsuccessful at the polls. He is now a prominent merchant in the town of St. Stephen. In religion he is a Universalist.

His Future Plans

St. John, Feb. 17.—When asked by the Telegraph last evening regarding his plans for the future, Hon. Dr. Pugsley said that he would resume the practice of law in St. John as consulting counsel. When the question of politics was suggested, he replied that his course in that connection depended entirely upon the people. "I have not lost my love for politics," he said, "but my future in that regard rests with the people."

Hon. Dr. Pugsley is one of Canada's ablest lawyers, and for many years he held high rank in political circles at Fredericton and at Ottawa. It is quite natural to suppose that, in view of his long and successful career in law and in politics and his wide experience in dealing with public affairs, there will be a strong and insistent call for him to again enter public life.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, Premier of New Brunswick, who left Fredericton for Bathurst last evening, was found at Newcastle between trains by a Telegraph representative, and was informed that the change in the governorship had been announced officially.

"I certainly regret very much the retirement of Governor Pugsley," the Premier said. "My association with him has always been most pleasant and kindly, and I know that in his future sphere of action, whatever it be, he will have the earnest good wishes of the people of our province."

"At the same time it gives me pleasure to know that Mr. Todd is being called to the post of honor for which his public services and his standing and capacity so well fit him. It is a natural promotion and the news will be well received. I congratulate him upon his appointment, and I may well congratulate the retiring Governor upon the success with which he has discharged the duties of the high office he has filled so acceptably."

WAS CANADA'S OLDEST CITIZEN

Richmond Hill, Ont., Feb. 17.—Mrs. Susan Augusta Maxwell Canada's oldest citizen and one of the most picturesque figures in York County, died at her home, yesterday at the accredited age of 117.

She was one of the few survivors of those colored people who escaped from the United States before the emancipation of the slaves. Her journey by the "underground railway," which is a story of hazard and adventure, was undertaken some 70 years ago. Her husband and four children died some years ago. She was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Her age was regarded as really authentic by residents of the village.

DEADWOOD STRUCK OFF THE CITY TAX ROLL

Special Committee of City Council Met With Assessors—May Raise Exemption Limit.

Much deadwood was found in the City Assessment lists at the conference held Saturday between a special committee of the City Council and the Board of Assessors. Ald. Jennings, Ald. Cooper, Ald. Clark and Ald. Olts represented the Council. City Treasurers Perkins and City Marshal McCollom also were present. The assessors are A. A. Sterling, H. C. Mackay and Peter Farrell.

It was found that there were many names carried on the lists which were those of persons deceased or who had removed from Fredericton some time before. After the pruning-hook had been applied carefully it was found that between one hundred and one hundred and fifty had been discovered.

The removal of these will greatly simplify matters and will give the officials a clearer field.

May Increase Exemption.

The meeting also discussed possible changes in the assessment act notably the increase of the exemption from \$300. The increase was not decided upon but is believed will be two or three hundred dollars.

BRIDGE CONTRACT AWARDED.

Contractors in Petitediac and Alma Were Successful—Keen Competition.

Hon. P. J. Veniot as Minister of Public Works, Friday afternoon awarded two bridge contracts as follows:—

Morris Pond Bridge, Parish of Sackville, Westmorland County, to J. W. Steeves of Petitediac, N. B. Price about \$7,000. Eleven tenders were received.

Moore's Mill Bridge, Parish of Waterford, King's County, a Howe truss span, to Judson A. Cleveland, Alma, Albert County, N. B. Price about \$2,600. Five tenders were received. Hon. Mr. Veniot left for his home at Bathurst Friday night but will return on Monday.

WELL RECEIVED

St. Stephen, Feb. 17.—The news of the appointment of Mr. W. F. Todd of this town to the Lieutenant Governorship of the province has been well received here by all classes of citizens. Governor Todd is the recipient of many messages of congratulation from friends in all parts of the country.

Miss Gertrude McPhail of Perth is a guest of Mrs. W. B. Burden, Brunswick street.

Bishop Richardson Writes of Valuable Services of Dr. Foster; Action of Board too Hasty

The Editor of the Mail: My Dear Sir,

It was startling to read a few days ago the announcement that, as the outcome of the unhappy altercation upon the occasion of the visit to the High School of a Committee of the City Council, the Principal of the School, Dr. Berton C. Foster, has been summarily dismissed from his office. Pending the publication of the whole correspondence between Dr. Foster and the Board of School Trustees, it was unfitting for one not immediately concerned to comment other than privately upon what had taken place. Now, however, that the full facts in the case are public property, I shall not be deemed guilty of an intrusion, I hope,—either by Dr. Foster or the Board of School Trustees,—if I crave the indulgence of your columns to refer to certain points in the controversy that ought not to be overlooked.

For indeed, what has taken place is of vital importance to every citizen of Fredericton. Here is a man who occupies an honoured and important place in the educational system of the City. For more than forty years he has served the City efficiently and faithfully. As Principal of the High School, he succeeded in office men of outstanding ability, and much more than provincial reputation. The fact that the High School has maintained its enviable reputation speaks volumes for the enthusiasm and success with which Dr. Foster has discharged his duties. Even those who have least sympathy with him will concede as much. Successive generations of boys and girls have passed through his hands, and amongst these it is easy to find very many who remember him with affection and respect. The attitude towards Dr. Foster of his present pupils is well known, and even though one may hesitate to accept the somewhat naive assurance contained in a recent letter upon this subject that "teen-aged boys and girls are the best judges of character in the world" it is significant of much when a principal has succeeded in winning the attachment of his pupils,—the more so, indeed, when that principal has not been in the habit of erring on the side of suavity in dealing with them. Yet, in the face of all these facts, it is announced that Dr. Foster has been dismissed from his office upon a four months' notice.

Action Drastic

It may be conceded at once that the Board of School Trustees must have been very reluctant to take this extremely drastic action. It could not have been otherwise. The idea that the Board has been moved by any personal animus against Dr. Foster may be dismissed at once. Yet, as I read the correspondence, I find myself driven to the conclusion that the penalty imposed upon Dr. Foster has been too severe,—out of all proportion to the exigencies of the case.

It is in no spirit of criticism that I say this. I recognize that the Board has been placed in an extremely difficult position. As servants of the City they are bound to defend the dignity of the City Council. As the governing body of the Schools, the Board cannot afford to pass unnoticed an incident that was, to say the least of it, very unpleasant, and the occurrence of which ought to have been impossible. Some disciplinary action the Board was forced to take. Not to have done so would have been to fail in duty, and to stultify itself.

Reviews of Facts

Having said so much, let me briefly review the main circumstances in the case. It is important to bear in mind that the unfortunate altercation between Dr. Foster and Mr. Olts was purely personal in origin. It had its beginning in a very blunt statement made by Mr. Olts at a joint meeting of the City Council and the Board of School Trustees, which Dr. Foster took,—and, as Mr. Olts admits, as a reflection upon the value of his work. The suggestion was, I think, that the sooner Dr. Foster was removed, the better it would be for the School. This took place, he it remembered, under circumstances which made it impossible for Dr. Foster to defend himself, and yet Mr. Olts' statement received full publicity in the press.

Is it any matter, for wonder if Dr. Foster was indignant? I do not suggest that Mr. Olts was not perfectly honest in his criticism. I am only anxious to show that when Dr. Foster took umbrage at what had been said about him, he did no more than most men would have done in his place. Most public men are sensitive of criticisms of that kind.

High School Scene

Then came the scene in the High School. With the recollection of what had been said about him fresh upon his mind, Dr. Foster allowed himself to forget the respect due to a delegation from the City Council, and, ranking under a keen sense of injustice, seized the opportunity of showing his resentment in an improper way. It was, of course, a blunder, and we may safely assume that Dr. Foster realizes this himself. It was one of those blunders, however, which, in the heat of excitement, it is only too easy for even the best men to make. I do not condone what was clearly wrong. I merely want to impress upon the public that Dr. Foster acted under very grave provocation.

Then came the writing of what the Board of Trustees has characterized as Dr. Foster's "discourteous letter". Well, with all respect to Dr. Foster, I think that the letter was discourteous, but not, I venture to submit, discourteous to the Board. I have read the letter repeatedly and with the utmost care, and I can find in it neither sentence nor word that can be fairly construed as discourteous to the Board of School Trustees. Discourtesy to the press, I find, and discourtesy to Mr. Olts, but not discourtesy to the Board. In the light of that first letter, therefore, I find it impossible to understand how the Board can demand from Dr. Foster "an ample and immediate apology". Dr. Foster evidently thinks so, too, and yet in his second letter he tries to meet the position of the Board by saying that, so far as he can understand the meaning of words, there was no discourtesy to the Board either expressed or intended. I think that most people will feel that, so far as the first letter is concerned, Dr. Foster has really done all that ought to be asked of him.

Dr. Foster in the Wrong

There remains the matter of Dr. Foster's treatment of the Committee of the Council, and here it is quite clear, I think, that Dr. Foster put himself in the wrong. Personal considerations had no place in the reception of such a delegation from the City Council. When, therefore, the Board asks Dr. Foster for an apology to the City Council, it is within its rights. But Dr. Foster has frankly conceded this himself. He states that at the time of writing his first letter he had already communicated with the Mayor upon the subject "disclaiming all intention of discourtesy to him, or to the Committee," and in his second letter to the Board he expresses himself as being quite willing to make a similar statement to the Board. Surely that ought to dispose of any question of insult to the City Council. When one asks for an apology from some offending person, one does not insist that he shall humble himself in the dust. It is enough to know that he regrets what has taken place. By implication, at least, Dr. Foster has stated that he does regret it. What more can be required? Yet, if I had the honour of being a personal friend of Dr. Foster, I think that I should venture to urge upon him the propriety of saying this in so many words. I can hardly doubt that, in the event of his doing so, the Board would at once reconsider its decision, and try to forget the whole affair.

Faithfully yours,
JOHN RICHARDSON.

To Take a Trip.

Mr. Adam Moore, the well known guide of Scotch Lake, leaves on Monday on a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, to be absent a fortnight. Mr. Moore goes west on the invitation of his sportsmen patrons who are paying all of his expenses and guarantee him the time of his life.

Mrs. J. H. Davidson has left for a couple of week's visit in St. John.

Cut of Fifty Millions Made in Estimates In Committee of House

RIGID ECONOMY TO BE PRACTICED

Big Saving to be Made in the Department of Railways.

FELL FROM FIVE STORY WINDOW

New York, Feb. 17.—Andrew Moxen, 19 years old, of 315 Clinton street, Brooklyn, a window cleaner, was working from a ledge of the fifth floor of the building at 16 Court street, Brooklyn, today when he fell to the cement yard below.

He stood up, shook himself and returned to resume the cleaning of the fifth floor window when an ambulance arrived from the Long Island College Hospital. Dr. James Smith examined Moxen and found that he seemed to be practically uninjured but ordered him removed to the hospital for a more thorough examination.

FRICION ON THE RUHR IS INCREASING

Two French Soldiers Shot During a Clash in a Cafe.

Essen, Feb. 16.—Essen was the storm centre today in the Ruhr where the friction between the French and the Germans has increased by Thursday night's shooting of two French soldiers by security police in a cafe brawl.

In retaliation of this shooting General Fournier, ordered a battalion of French infantry to occupy the German police barracks. The chief of police was arrested, all the files and documents at headquarters were taken by the French and the disarming of the police was begun.

The shooting of the French soldiers took place when eight of them, off duty, entered the cafe. The waiters refused to serve them because of the boycott against the French started last Monday night, and fighting immediately begun.

A member of the security police appeared at the door of the cafe when the brawl began, and the French contend that he was the first person to begin shooting.

General Fournier has notified the burgomaster's office that allied soldiers, as well as all allied civilians are entitled to make purchases in the stores of Essen and to be served in restaurants and cafes, and that any keepers of such places who refused to sell will run the risk of having their places closed or requisitioned. The Germans claim that the food situation around Bochum is serious.

Delegations from the Brandenburg people's alliance one of the largest associations in Germany have been meeting in Bochum with the steel representatives. At this meeting it was decided to transfer 500 children into the country where many hundreds have already been sent.

DEBATE WAS DECIDED AGAINST NEW HIGH SCHOOL

A live topic of civic interest was the subject of a debate Friday night between the Tuxis Boys and the Canadian Girls in Training of the Brunswick street Baptist Church. The subject was, "Resolved that Fredericton should erect a new High School Building at a cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000."

The affirmative was supported by the girls and the negative by the boys. The negative won the debate although an excellent presentation of the subject was made on either hand.

The serving of refreshments brought the evening entertainment to a close.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—A reduction of more than \$50,000,000 in the estimated expenditure of the Dominion for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 1924, as shown in the estimates tabled in the House of Commons this afternoon by the Minister of Finance indicates that there is a real determination to save behind the words of the King government as contained in the speech from the Throne. A strict economy in all public expenditures continues to be a necessity of the existing financial situation.

As important as the actual amount by which it is hoped to cut down the country's outlay in the current fiscal year, is the fact that a large part of the \$51,660,156.17 is made up of savings in the Department of Railways and Canals and under the heading of miscellaneous. The latter "department" has frequently been the cause of serious subtractions from the national bank account through the aggregation of a large number of comparatively small items.

The saving this year under the Department of Railways and Canals, under income, is \$16,043,086 over the outlay of the previous year and the reduction under miscellaneous is \$15,584,000.54. There is also a decrease of \$1,765,235 in the Department of Railways and Canals on capital account.

A table showing the totals under the various headings of government, with comparisons with the previous year, and the reduction under miscellaneous is \$15,584,000.54. There is also a decrease of \$1,765,235 in the Department of Railways and Canals on capital account.

An important departure has been taken in this year's estimates in representing the requirements for the Canadian National Railways. Instead of submitting in detail the various purposes as in previous years, there is one lump sum of \$73,000,000 contained in this year's document as compared with \$82,250,000, which was the total estimated requirement in the previous year. Along with it is the following interesting paragraph:

"Amount not exceeding \$73,000,000 to meet expenditures made or indebtedness incurred where amounts available from net operating earnings may be insufficient by or on behalf of the Canadian National Railway Company, hereinafter called the company or any company specified in the first schedule to the act incorporating the Canadian National Company, being Chapter 13 of the Statutes of Canada, 1919 or by the company in respect of any railways properties or works entrusted to the company from time to time under the provision of Section 2 of the said Chapter 13 for any one or more of them, on any of the following accounts:

(A) Operating deficits, whenever incurred or ascertained; (b), acquisition of property, materials and supplies; (c), interest and sinking funds on notes, securities or obligations; (d), principal and interest of maturing or matured loans secured or unsecured (e) construction and betterments; (f) co-ordination or consolidation of railway lines and facilities; (g) guarantees of securities.

"The amount herein authorized may be applied from time to time in the discretion of the Governor-in-council, (a), to meet expenditures made for inspection of railways properties and works entrusted to the company as aforesaid; (b) by way of loans in cash, or by way of guarantee or partly one way and partly the other."

Another large item closely related to the conduct of the Canadian National Railways is the estimated outlay for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which is \$1,500,000 as compared with \$4,360,720 last year.