

HON. JOHN MORRISSY ASKED TO QUIT THE GOVERNMENT

Received a Letter From Premier Clarke
to That Effect on Saturday Afternoon
--Will Promptly Reply to the Premier's
Request--Just the Chance He Has Been
Looking for, His Friends Declare.

Premier Clarke asked for the resignation of Hon. John Morrissey, Minister of Public Works, on Saturday afternoon.

The House was prorogued in the morning and the Ministers and members had all gone excepting Morrissey, whose train left for Newcastle at 6.30. Premier Clarke was also ready to leave the capital before that hour, and a few minutes previous to his departure he sent a long letter to his senior minister demanding his resignation. Hon. Mr. Morrissey at once made the fact public and gave out the statement that he would return to Fredericton the first of the week and give his answer to the Premier and the people. The letter of Premier Clarke to the Minister was long and wordy. He made no charges against Morrissey, and in fact took occasion to say, in referring to the Teed investigation, that the result did not reflect upon him personally, but at the same time condemned him for not suspending Blair during the investigation and his "reluctance to take action looking toward his dismissal indicated a disposition to condone the offences rather than to adopt the course called for by the serious nature of the wrong perpetrated."

It is understood that the claim is made that this statement of the Premier's will not bear investigation. In fact John Morrissey's friends say the whole letter really gives him the opportunity he has been seeking for a long time. Some interesting and startling statements may be looked for when Morrissey speaks his mind in answer to the Premier.

A Weak Effusion.

The reference to some of Morrissey's recent utterances in the House of Assembly is one of the most amusing features of the Premier's weak and wandering letter. He expressed his disapproval and says they "cannot be accepted as expressing sentiments worthy of your position as a Minister of the Crown or for which the Government is in any way responsible."

This no doubt refers to Morrissey's statement about James K. Pinder, of Southampton Railway double subsidy fame, he intimated would, if he had his deserts, be in some other building than the House of Assembly. No doubt Premier Clarke prefers the choicer language of his Attorney General, who used the words "thug," "scum," "dregs" and "leavings" when referring to a political opponent.

Morrissey's language in the House, contrasted with Baxter's, was that of a parlor compared with the bar-room.

Summed up, the resignation of Morrissey is apparently demanded not because of disagreement upon broad questions of policy for the best interests of the country, but because a committee of the Government wanted to assume the duties of the Minister of Public Works and Morrissey was not willing to submit to being dictated to. No importance can be attached to Premier Clarke's complaint that Morrissey did not suspend Blair during an investigation which lasted two days, and has his secretary was appointed in the first place by order-in-council, the Premier's complaint that Morrissey hesitated to dismiss an official thus authorized is peculiar.

The Premier's Letter.

The full text of the Premier's letter requesting Morrissey's resignation follows:

Fredericton, N. B., April 29.

Dear Mr. Morrissey—It must have been apparent to you for some time that a change in the administration of the Department of Public Works is desirable. The recent action of the Government in cancelling the contract entered into by your department with the Foundations Company, Limited, and the result accomplished by the call for new tenders, must be accepted as showing conclusively that the wider supervision rendered possible by the full exercise of the powers of the Board of Works would prove a valuable safeguard even in the most carefully administered department. Since I became Premier I have very strongly urged upon you the adoption of a policy which would provide this greater security, but action to this end has not been taken, and apparently does not commend itself to you. I feel that the time has arrived when the necessity for the change suggested must be recognized and acted upon.

I need not call your attention to the

unfortunate result of the recent investigation by Mr. Mariner G. Teed, K. C., of certain charges against an official of your department, a result which, while not reflecting on you personally, disclosed conditions which should not exist in the administration of any government department. Your refusal to suspend the official during the investigation, and your reluctance to take action looking toward his dismissal indicated a disposition to condone the offence rather than to adopt the course called for by the serious nature of the wrong perpetrated, and appeared necessary as an evidence of the determination of the Government to insist on the maintenance of that high character in the public service which it is the duty of every member of the Government to preserve.

In addition, I feel of late that your attitude toward your colleagues has not been conducive to the satisfactory administration of provincial affairs.

Tennyson's Poetry

(From the Normal Light.)

Poetry! What does this word suggest? What does it mean? To some it is meaningless; to others it suggests beauty, beauty of thought and beauty of utterance. Surely no one could read those wonderful poems of Tennyson without realizing their beauty and their worth.

Alfred Tennyson has been called the national teacher of poetry. His poems consist of songs, odes, sonnets, lyrics, ballads and dramas. He has written in many rhymes and rhythms. This is characteristic of all Tennyson's poetry. Some poems are very sad and pathetic. Let me quote the following lines as an example of them:

"Oh for the touch of a vanished hand,
The sound of a voice that is still!"

Other poems suggest rest and repose. Perhaps the best example of this is found in that beautiful poem, "The Lotus Eaters."

How sweet it were, hearing the downward stream
With half-shut eyes, ever to seem
Falling asleep in a half dream!

Then other poems suggest battle, the clash of arms. As an example of this let me quote the following lines:

With blare of bugle, clamor of men,
Roll of cannon and clash of arms.

His poems are very descriptive, and it has been said by one writer that every sound is made an echo to the sense. This may be distinctly noted in the poem "The Poet's Song."

The swallow stopped as he hunted the bee,
The snake slept under a spray.
The wild hawk stood with the down on his beak,
And stared, with his foot on his prey.

In many of his poems he contrasts the conditions of Nature with the conditions of Life. Take, for example, the lines from one of the lyrics in "In Memoriam."

The silent snow possessed the earth,
And calmly fell our Christmas eve.

His characters are ideal. Take, for instance, his description of the character of the Duke of Wellington:

Mourn for the man of long-enduring blood,
The statesman, warrior—moderate, resolute.
Whole in himself, a common good.
Mourn for the man of amplest influence,
Yet clearest of ambitious crime.
Our greatest yet with least pretence,
Great in council and great in war,
Foremost captain of his time.
Rich in saving common-sense,
And, as the greatest only are,
In his simplicity sublime.
Mighty seaman, this is he,
The greatest sailor since the world began.
For this is England's greatest son,
He that gained a hundred fights,
Nor ever lost an English gun.

His poems are both interesting and instructive, and each poem has a new thought. The verse—

"So fret not, like an idle girl,
That life is dashed with flecks of sin,
Abide (have faith) they wealth is gathered in,
When Time hath sundered shell from pearl!"

suggests "faith." Others suggest possibility, hope, love. In the little poem—

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies;
Hold you here, root and all, in my hand.
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

Tennyson says if he could but understand Nature he would then be able to understand the higher things of life.

In the opening lyrics of "In Memoriam," we find Tennyson skeptical, and with lack of faith as to the future, but in his famous poem, "Crossing the Bar," we find the keynote is "faith, hope."

You have displayed a disposition in many matters to act alone rather than in conjunction and harmony with the other members of the Government, and I deem it necessary to express my disapproval of some of your recent utterances in the House of Assembly, and to state that they cannot be accepted as expressing sentiments worthy of your position as a Minister of the Crown, or for which the Government is in any way responsible.

I think you will admit that, in face of the conditions briefly referred to above, and others which you will no doubt readily call to mind, it is requisite that a change affecting you personally be made in the constitution of the Government. This being so, I feel compelled to request your resignation as a member of the Government. My regret that a full sense of my duty compels this action is somewhat tempered by my belief that your personal inclination may be in accord with the course which is here indicated.

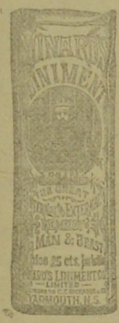
With kind personal regards, believe me,
Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEORGE J. CLARKE.

Speeding the Breakup.

Discussing the action of Premier Clarke in calling for Morrissey's resignation, the legislative correspondent of the Telegraph wires his paper:

Those who are close to every-day occurrences near the Government, declare that Morrissey's resignation will but speed the breakup of the Government and the party. Many resignations were threatened during the session and two were actually written out, but held back at the earnest entreaty of the Government members, who feared the example might be contagious. Had Clarke at the beginning of the session asked for the resignation of A. J. H. Stewart, Robichaud



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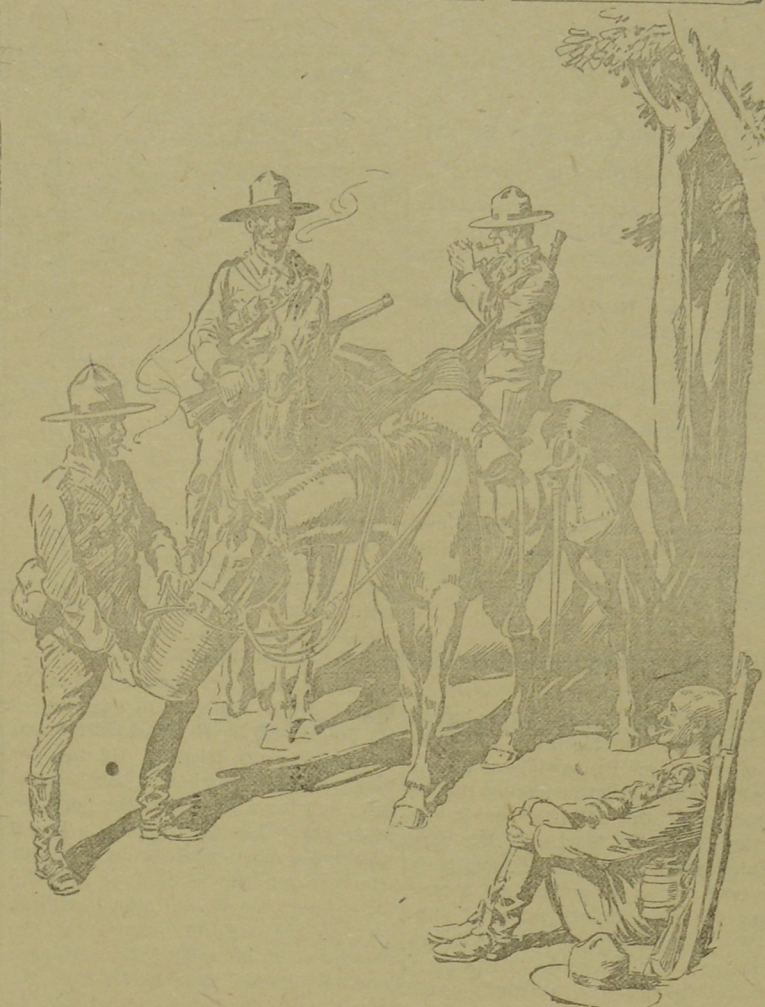
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"Say, John, I feel quite sick today," said Mr. Blank. "Please visit the different doctors in town, and find out who will cure me for the least money. Get your quotations tabulated and then let me see them. Of course we will engage the doctor who charges the least."

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"The ordinary user of printing knows his own business, but he is no more a judge of the work of printing than he is a judge of what sort of medicine a doctor should give him for the cure of his ailment. If people ask me for quotations and pass me by if my price happens to be a little more than the other fellow, why shouldn't I apply the same method to the doctor, lawyer, dentist and painter? Why not? It's a mighty poor rule that won't work more than one way."

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