

NOVA SCOTIA MEMBER SAYS STRANGER CROSSED FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND MADE THREATS

Unusual Incident in the Nova Scotia Legislature—
The Stranger Was Dr. Thomas J. Byrne, Provincial Health Officer and a Former Resident of Chatham, N. B.

(Halifax Chronicle)

"A stranger" crossed the floor of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly. He had been admitted as assistant to the minister whose estimates for the current year were under consideration, and because one of the members had mentioned an occurrence that concerned him personally, this "stranger" approached the member with an accusation and parted with: "I'll get square with you."

Thus, it was that Dr. Thomas Iyes Byrne, erstwhile president of the Halifax County Liberal Association and a liberal candidate in Halifax in the last provincial election, now provincial health officer under the Conservative government, came within an ace of being called before the Bar of the House of account for his action, reported in the Assembly yesterday as having taken place during the session of Tuesday night.

Gordon E. Romkey, Lunenburg, the member in the case, arose to a question of privilege yesterday afternoon. He held in his hand a motion that the "stranger" be called before the Bar, but he did not press it on being assured by Premier Harrington that the offender would not be allowed to re-enter the House during the present session.

In his remarks, Mr. Romkey stated that the "stranger", as he called the doctor, had crossed the floor of the House and used "insinuating, insulting and threatening language." At the time, the speaker had been in his chair, the mace on the table, the sergeant-at-arms in his place. The member for Lunenburg said he had never see such an occurrence, in direct violation of the rules, in this or any other assembly. He wished to know if the speaker intended to allow it to go unchallenged.

Quotes From Rules Of The House

To stress the seriousness of the case, he referred to chapter 2, the Revised Statutes of 1923 section 25: "The following acts, matters and things are prohibited, and shall be deemed violations of this chapter: (1) Insults to or assaults or libels upon members of council or House during the session of the Legislature; (2) Obstructing, threatening or attempting to force or intimidate members of the Council or House; (3) The refusal or failure of any member or officer of the council or House, or other person, to obey any rule, order or resolution of the council or House."

The penalty for such an offence here outlined by quoting section 26: "Every person who is guilty of a violation of this chapter shall be liable (in addition to any other penalty or punishment to which he is by law liable) to imprisonment for such time during the session of the Legislature then being held as is determined by the council or House before which such violation is inquired into."

Then he quoted Bourinot, page 55: "The assaulting menacing or insulting of any member in his coming to or going from, or on account of his behaviour in parliament, is a high infringement of the privileges of the house—in the words of the English resolution, a most outrageous and dangerous violation of the rights of parliament and a high crime and misdemeanor."

And Rule 9 of the House of Assembly: "Any stranger admitted into any part of the House or gallery who misconducts himself, or does not withdraw when strangers are directed to withdraw, while the House or any committee of the whole House is sitting, shall be taken into custody by the sergeant-at-arms; and no person so taken into custody shall be discharged without special order of the House."

Premier Surprised

It looked bad for Dr. Byrne about this time, but Mr. Romkey said he would not press the motion to call him before the Bar if he had the assurance of the Speaker, the Premier or the Minister that this "stranger" would not be allowed again in the House this session.

The Minister, Hon. Dr. George H. Murphy, was not in the House yesterday. It was in the course of discussion on Tuesday night of the estimates that Mr. Romkey mentioned an order that had been issued "from the health office in Halifax" for removal of an infantile paralysis patient from the town of Liverpool to his home in West Dublin. It seems that Dr. Byrne who then headed the health office took objection to this and approached Mr. Romkey directly after the estimates had been passed.

"To say that I am surprised is to put it mildly," said Premier Harrington, who had not heard of the occurrence. He reminded the member for Lunenburg that the matter should have been called to attention of the Speaker immediately it had occurred and it would have been given sympathetic consideration. Only by strict adherence to the rules of the House could the members maintain its dignity. Nobody regretted the occurrence more than he, and his chief regret was that he had not been notified at the time. He wished Mr. Romkey to take his assurance that no repetition would occur while he was in the House and could stop it.

A. S. MacMillan, Opposition House leader, said all the members were desirous that the dignity of the Assembly be maintained. He felt, however, that the member for Lunenburg might withhold his motion if he had the assurance of the Premier that the offender would not be allowed to return to the House.

William Chisholm who sits directly in front of Mr. Romkey, told what he knew about the occurrence. Just about the time when the discussion on estimates was closing, an official of the department of health had crossed the floor of the Assembly. Mr. Chisholm had not heard all the conversation that ensued but he had heard the "stranger" tell Mr. Romkey that his statement was "unjust and untrue," and add, "I'll get square with you!" But that was not all; the "stranger" had remained on this side of the House for a time just as if he had been a member. The matter should have been reported at the time and he thought it might be dropped now with the understanding that the official not be allowed to enter the precincts of the House during the session. He concluded:

"So Mr. Speaker, you might authorize the sergeant-at-arms that if he sees him entering he is to run him out."

R. H. Butts—"You wouldn't deprive him of a Christian burial, now would you?"

The Speaker, Hon. D. G. MacKenzie, said he had not observed the occurrence. No one had drawn his attention to it.

Tells Of Incidents

Then Mr. Butts was up again, that and all. "There appears to be to be quite a tempest in a teapot," he began. The "leader of the opposition in furor" had shaken his fist at him, but he had not said anything about it. Now the opposition members were making a great fuss about rules of the House.

"I am the only one who knows the rules," he declared, reminding the members that he was the only one who wore his hat. He had sat in the House of Commons with Hon. George E. Foster, whom he had never known to go bareheaded. Blake, too, had always worn his hat in the Commons.

Returning to the somewhat doubtful fistshaking incident, Mr. Butts said: "It being such an insignificant matter, it had no effect on me. I have been too long in his parliament. If he did shake his fist, you did not see it, Mr. Speaker. And nobody has called it to your attention. This man Byrne is at least an official. He was

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMILTON WOULD BE BUSY IN MONTREAL

They fought the dogs, and killed the cats, And bit the babies in their cradles."

There are four million rats in Montreal, and every man, woman and child in the City is paying from three to four dollars a year to support them, according to H. W. Johnson of Verdun, rat killer extraordinary and interested in the extinction of vermin.

"Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats, Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats." All the menagerie of the Pied Piper of Hamelin are here in fact, though Mr. Johnson advocates sterner methods than the Pied Piper's to rid the city of the pest.

They come to Montreal from every quarter, says Mr. Johnson. Last week, for example a consignment popped out uninvited from five wicker hampers just arrived from Saxony. Montreal's rat population is cosmopolitan. Some hail from China, some from Sweden, he maintains; while the local breed yields to none in vigor. Montreal rats, in fact have a highly developed social system, moving southward to the water front in summer, and northward into the City for the winter sports season and free pickings around warm kitchens and basements.

Sundry methods for dealing with rats are described. A quaint one is to "bell the rat." Catch one rate in a trap, cloveform it, chain a bell around its neck and set it loose. The sound of the bell in the rat haunts will drive the old inhabitants crazy and cause them to leave for a more peaceful neighborhood. More effective and permanent a cure, is to infect one rat with a disease of rats not communicable to humans or other animals. The diseased rodent will then start a plague.

Rats, if starved long enough, can be made cannibals so as to attack and devour their brethren, according to Mr. Johnson. Once the cannibal taste is developed, the rat, becomes a permanent menace to his tribe, but will probably move on to other happy hunting grounds.

Mr. Johnson substantiates the Browning story about rats being able to kill cats, and ferrets. But a good terrier, given room, can fight his weight in house-rats, easily. He reports that a child in Belleville, Ont., not in the position of the man from no man's land.

"I slapped a man's mouth, but it was in the lobby. I pulled a man's nose, but it wasn't in the chamber. And I think Bourinot would tell you neither Byrne nor Angus L. MacDonald were able to violate the rules of this House, because they are not members of the House."

Premier Harrington was not very definite in his reply to Mr. Romkey. He thought it might be unfair to the Minister when his other estimates came up if he had not the assistance of the provincial health officer, who had carried on the work during the fiscal year. However, he (the Premier), might assist the Minister because the Health Department was at that time under the Department of Public Works and Mines.

The Opposition members took this as assurance that the "stranger" would not be allowed to re-enter the House during the session and the matter was dropped.

However, Angus L. MacDonald, Leader of the Liberal Party in Nova Scotia, denies that he shook his fist at Mr. Butts. It seems that someone mistook a gesture and drew his own conclusions. A few weeks ago Mr. Butts jollied Dr. McGarry and Dr. Proudfoot on the fact that neither of them had resigned and given "their fellow Inverness" a seat. This was on a Friday afternoon. After the House adjourned, Mr. MacDonald was passing through the chamber and saw Mr. Butts and Dr. McGarry engaged in conversation. In passing, he remarked to Mr. Butts, humorously: "What would be the sense of Dr. McGarry or Dr. Proudfoot resigning? You fellows will not give a chap a chance to run, even if there is a vacancy."

Mr. Butts laughed and replied: Ho! ho! go on now."

According to Mr. MacDonald, he did not shake his fist at Mr. Butts or speak to him harshly.



SCOUT NEWS

THE WOLF CUB NEWS
Week, March 24th to 31st.

The total amount raised by the Food Sale and appeal for funds towards the new Cathedral Boys' Choir, has now reached \$8.95. Once again we make grateful acknowledgement to all concerned for their splendid response.

On Saturday, the Cub Commissioner, prospective Asst. Cubmaster Don Worrell, (7th. F'tons), and fourteen of the Cathedral pack, hiked to Marysville, in perfect weather, via North Devon and the Riffe-Butts. At Marysville, after cursory visits to the electric plant in the Cotton Mill, and to the jail—happily not for detention—all went on to the Idlewhile Lodge, which has lately been built over. Here, a snowball fight and a hide-and-seek game proved exciting. After the regular closing, the boys and Mr. Worrell returned to the city, the Commissioner staying for an Exhibition Basketball game at the Dawson Y Club, between the Marysville Pack team and the Brunswick Street Baptist Explorers. This proved the tightest of the season, Brunswick Street obtaining a hard-won victory of 5 to 4.

The teams were as follows:
Brunswick Street Explorers: D. Munro (F), E. Currie (F), E. Furgen (F), J. Kitchen (C), R. Smith (G), D. Rouse (G), L. Hall (G).
Marysville Wolf Cubs: J. Thorpe (G), L. MacPherson (G), G. Fletcher (G), A. Tait (C), White (F), Peterson (F), D. MacPherson (G).
Referees: G. E. Foster, Douglas MacPherson.

On Sunday, ten of the Marysville Wolf Cubs with their leaders attended evening service at the Mount Olivat Baptist Church, by invitation of the Pastor, Rev. D. J. MacPherson. The turn-out was creditable, considering very poor weather. The boys made an excellent impression. The Pastor's address on the principals underlying the Wolf Cub and Boy Scout movement, was instructive to all concerned.

Robt. Pugh, Akela Leader
Dist. Wolf Cub Comm.

HELPED DURING MIDDLE AGE

Woman Praises Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Sarnia, Ont.—"I am willing to answer letters from other women, to tell them the wonderful good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did me. I cannot be thankful enough for the benefits I received during the Change of Life. I do housework and my troubles made me unfit to work. A friend advised me to try the Vegetable Compound. I felt great relief at once, began to regain my appetite, and my nerves got better. I will recommend your medicine to all with troubles like I had."—MRS. JOHN BENSON, 162 N. Christina St., Sarnia, Ontario.

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