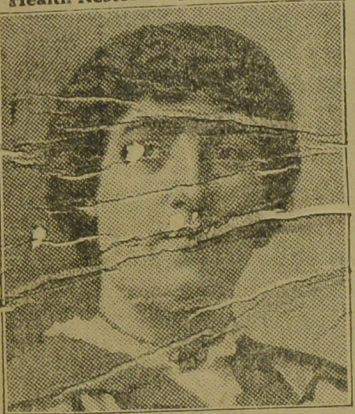


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Rochon P.Q., Jan. 14th, 1915.
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The reason for the advance and the strength of sugar is said to be the smaller Cuban crop this year. The latest estimate of the crop is nearly one million tons of raw sugar under the crop of 1915. Practically every European nation is drawing on the Cuban supply to meet its wants, as the supply of beet sugars usually produced in Europe has dwindled to a negligible quantity owing to the war.

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Edmonton, Alberta, April 20.—James Ward, born in Alberta, and reputed to be in his 108th year, is dead at his homestead at Paul de Metes.

A Family Squabble in the Legislature on Thursday

Col. P. A. Guthrie Created a Sensation by His Exposure of Black-Hand Methods---Tells of Heroic Efforts of Joshua Malakoff Chappelle to Save the Party From Damnation---That "Big Note" Again Heard From.

The internal squabble among the Government supporters is not ended yet. There was another chapter added on Thursday, when Colonel P. A. Guthrie rose in the House and spoke to a question of privilege concerning some charges made by a Government contractor, J. M. Chappelle, which were said to reflect upon him. He dealt with them in a vigorous manner, and denied absolutely any connection with Chappelle with respect to the contract in question. Inasmuch as Colonel Guthrie was absent at the front some months before the public work was decided upon and begun, the absurdity of the reflection upon this member for York is at once apparent.

This new story seems to me another outcome of the differences between the York county members.

Chappelle is a messenger of the House of Assembly, while in session, and a concrete contractor in the summer time. In the fall of 1914 he figured upon some concrete walks about the Legislative Buildings and his offer was accepted by the Public Works Department. The amount paid him was about \$1,200, and after he had received his money he went into the department with an envelope upon which were marked in small figures "75."

That Big Note.

Secretary Blair asked him what that was, and he replied, "That is for you." "Not for me," replied Blair. "I do not want a cent of your money."

Chappelle, Mr. Blair says, pressed him to take the money, but he refused and did not even handle the envelope, but finally told him if he was so anxious to contribute there was a political note they were finding it difficult to make payments on, and he would not doubt find T. V. Monahan glad to have it for that purpose. Chappelle took the envelope to Monahan and left it there.

When Blair was dismissed, it appears Chappelle began to talk about this, and the result was an affidavit to which Col. Guthrie referred in the House.

The names of two other members, Messrs. Price and Woods, were brought into the discussion and their replies did not contain the cordial acceptance of Col. Guthrie's statement that might have been expected.

While there were denials that the Chappelle story was designed to be used to close the mouth of Blair, still many of the members had obtained that idea of it and were resentful of any attack upon Colonel Guthrie.

The debate was just another strong indication of the fact that the Local Government party is a very "happy" family.

A Question of Privilege.

The House met at 3 o'clock. Lieut. Col. Guthrie rose to a question of privilege. He had been told that Joshua M. Chappelle, one of the employees of this House, had said he had paid him (Guthrie) the sum of \$75 for getting Chappelle a contract some time ago to lay concrete sidewalks around the legislative buildings. That information came as a great surprise to him, but inasmuch as his informant was a reputable citizen and a personal friend, he could not very well doubt the truth of his statement. He immediately set about to find Chappelle, and after some trouble managed to locate him at his home, where he told him what he had heard.

"Chappelle denied that he had ever said anything of the kind," said Col. Guthrie, "and said that he had not paid \$75 or any other sum for using my influence to get the contract, but he told me that there was trouble in the party and he had been approached by two custodians of the party interests. He said that Harry Blair was going to make a statement which would throw considerable mud on the party. There was only one man that could 'put the squeeze' on Blair and that man was myself, and that by the party putting the squeeze on me they could put the squeeze on Blair and make him keep his mouth shut."

Saviour of the Party.

"Chappelle went on to say that 'HE AND I HAD ALWAYS BEEN GOOD FRIENDS, AND HE HAD NO DESIRE WHATEVER TO HURT ME AT ALL, BUT THE PARTY MUST BE SAVED AND HE WAS GOING TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO SAVE IT.' He further said that if Blair made no statement nothing would be done."

Chappelle said that he met him (Guthrie) on the street one day and spoke to him about getting work and that he (Guthrie) had told him that he would have to go to the Board of Works Department and pay Blair ten per cent. of the price to get the job. This alleged statement, Chappelle said, so upset him that he was dumbfounded. Next day, however, he went to the department and got the job, and after the job was completed he paid over \$75 to T. V. Monahan of this city.

He (Guthrie) denied to him then as he denied to the members then and there that he ever had any such conversation with Chappelle or with the Public Works Department, or recommended Chappelle for the job. His colleague, Mr. Young, also said that he has no recollection whatever of anything being done on Chappelle's behalf, nor did he know anything about it until work was being done.

Personally, he (Guthrie) knew nothing whatever of it until his return from the front. The time this conversation was alleged to have taken place was on October 7, 1914, and the date of the contract was October 8, 1914. He (Guthrie) left Fredericton for the front on August 20, and at the time the conversation was said to take place he was on the water. He did not know, neither did he care, what Harry Blair had got against the Government or against any member of the House, but he would allow no screws to be put on him on behalf of Blair or anybody else. He had no connection whatever with the transaction referred to. He had learned that the \$75 referred to was paid on a certain election note which had attained some local notoriety, and he was also told by a friend that the two members of the party to whom Chappelle referred were H. W. Woods and Dr. O. B. Price. He made the statement he then did because he understood the story was going the rounds and he thought it his duty in justice to himself to take the earliest opportunity of giving the lie to it.

The Sleuths Heard From.

Mr. Woods said that he felt that he should make a statement in this connection inasmuch as his name had been mentioned by the hon. member for York. Stories upon which this whole matter was founded had been very life about the streets of Fredericton. He had heard of them not from Mr. Chappelle but from other sources. He did not go to Chappelle but he met him one day on the street and Chappelle asked him if he had heard the stories and he (Woods) told him that he had. Then Chappelle asked what he thought about it and he (Woods) told him that some of the people up here who had any connection with the Public Works Department had been guilty of a lot of wrong work. Then when Chappelle asked what he had better do about it, he (Woods) told him he had better make an affidavit.

Sometime later Chappelle asked him what about the member for York in connection with the matter and he had told him that the only thing for him to do was, if he was going to make any statement at all, to tell the truth.

Continuing, Mr. Woods said that he had had no desire to believe Chappelle's story. The statement which Chappelle had made had referred to the hon. member for York, and if he (Guthrie) had done anything wrong he (Woods) was only sorry and hoped the hon. member for York would be able to establish his innocence in the event of the matter being carried any further.

Dr. Price.

Dr. Price said he regretted that he had not heard the earlier portion of the remarks of hon. member for York, but his name had been mentioned by the hon. member for York, who had risen to speak regarding his friend Mr. Blair, ex-secretary of the Public Works Department, he felt he should make some statement. He had heard the member for York say he (Price) had approached Chappelle respecting the matter referred to.

Col. Guthrie said he had said that Chappelle had made such a statement. Dr. Price, continuing, said he wanted to say that he did not approach Chappelle and he did not know anything about the insinuations which had been made. On the other hand this matter

had been common rumor and on one occasion he had spoken with Chappelle about it. Chappelle asked him if he had heard about the \$75 rake-off which he had had to pay to Blair on account of the contract which he had secured for constructing a sidewalk in front of the legislative buildings. He told Chappelle it was brand new to him, but as to what Chappelle had stated regarding any persons other than Blair he had not talked about generally. He did not think it was right to herald around the country what Chappelle had said, although it did infringe upon the honor of a member of this House.

He would be glad, too, if the member who had been referred to would be able to prove that he as absolutely innocent. He did not take backwater regarding anything he had said regarding the Public Works Department, and he did not take back one word or regret any action that he had taken respecting the trip that he had made to Ottawa as a result of stories which had been rumored around in connection with the Public Works Department. He thought it would be well if the member for York would allow matters respecting the Secretary of Public Works to drop, as the more they were gone into the worse they looked. He was out of the service, let it be presumed for good. He regretted he had been unable to hear earlier portions of Col. Guthrie's remarks, as there might be some matters which had then been referred to respecting which he would like to speak.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that for the benefit of the member from Moncton, he would like to explain that it had been suggested that this matter was being worked up for the purpose of having something to restrain Mr. Blair from stating something which he might have to reveal respecting members of this House.

Dr. Price said that was absolutely untrue.

"Was What Chappelle Said."

Col. Guthrie said he had stated that that was what Chappelle had said.

Continuing, Dr. Price said that if Blair had anything to say against anybody let him say so. There had been too much barefaced bluffery along that line connected with this whole public works business. If Blair had the goods let him come out and say so. He (Dr. Price) had had no connection with Chappelle, with any idea of shutting out anything Blair might have to say. He cared nothing for Blair in this House, in the corridors, or anywhere else. He did not believe that Chappelle could have made any such statement as he was reported to have made.

Col. Guthrie, rising, said he wished to make a statement as to the matter so that everybody would know just exactly where he stood in respect to it and to clear himself respecting the stories which had been circulated. He had nothing to say regarding the ex-secretary of Public Works. He did not rise in the House to defend him, but only to deny the false stories with respect to himself which had been circulated.

Mr. Smith rose to a point of order. Hon. Mr. Murray said he thought that perhaps the member's point of order was well taken, but suggested that the honorable member for York be allowed to finish whatever statement he wished.

Col. Guthrie said that all he wished to say further was that Chappelle had made almost exactly the same statement in the same words to a friend of his to the effect that this thing was not to be used or mentioned unless Blair started something.

The Acting Premier.

Hon. Mr. Murray said that he realized that a point of order was not open to debate, but nevertheless he felt it was well that certain things should be said. The assertion had been made that certain honorable gentlemen were the custodians of the party's interests. He wished to say that there were no individuals who were the custodians of the party's interests. The party's honor was a matter which rested upon every honorable member. The matter which had been referred to was something regarding which the Government knew absolutely nothing. If there was anybody who had anything to say which would detract from the honor of any member of the Government or of the House, he would ask him to come forward. The policy of this Government had been to show the public that it would not countenance the suppression of anything of that nature, and their desire had been to have the people have confidence in the Government, and he trusted that the members of the House as a whole have that confidence of the people and that members of the Government were in the same happy state. He desired to state again and to emphasize the statement, that there were no custodians of the party interests except the members of the party as a whole, and that the party honor rests upon the shoulders of every individual member.

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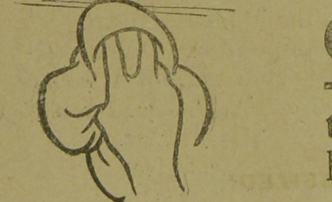
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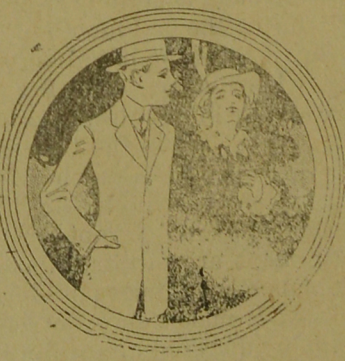


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