

Mr. Baxter Attempts a Reply To Mr. Morrissey's Charges

Practically Admits That There Was a Hold up of St. John Liquor Licences---Accuses Morrissey of Making Public Secrets of Executive Council Chamber---Moncton Bridge Contract.

Premier Clarke's long expected "reply" to the serious charges made by Hon. John Morrissey, ex-Minister of Public Works, occupies four columns of space in today's St. John Standard. The article was evidently prepared by Attorney General Baxter, but for reasons which are quite obvious, he did not go through the formality of signing his name to it.

The article refers at the outset to the jug-handled investigation conducted by Commissioner Chandler into the affairs of the Public Works Department, and points out that the result showed "such a laxity of supervision on the part of the Minister and his deputy as to entirely negative the Minister's contention that everything in his department would successfully stand enquiry."

The Moncton Bridge.

Reference is made to the Moncton bridge contract and it is claimed that the cancellation by the Government of the contract awarded to the Foundation Company, Limited, by Mr. Morrissey, and the awarding of a new contract to Engineers and Contractors, Ltd., saved the province \$22,500.

The insinuation is made that Mr. Morrissey wanted the contract to go to the Foundation Company, Limited, because this concern had given a sub-contract to his son at Newcastle and had given a scarf pin to his deputy.

That Correspondence.

The report continues:

The reference to the correspondence between the Rhodes Curry Company and the Hon. J. E. Wilson has no bearing on the case, was not submitted for consideration of the Government, and influenced the cancellation of the contract in no respect. This correspondence, whatever it was, was private between the parties, and only became public after it had been stolen from Mr. Wilson's desk by some person who had become aware of its existence. The private correspondence of a member of the Executive Council has no bearing on the relations of the Government with those with whom it does business. Were this otherwise, it is more than probable that the private correspondence of Mr. Morrissey, either in his own name or the names of others who have acted for him during the past few years, would disclose many interesting situations, to say the least.

The Teed Report.

Hon. Mr. Baxter's "reply" makes the following reference to the Teed report:

"With regard to the Teed report, Mr. Morrissey seems to be unnecessarily worried, so much so as to affect his memory. While it is true that certain conversations took place between Mr. Morrissey and Premier Clarke, they were not of the nature spoken to by the former. It was never suggested by the Premier that Mr. Blair should 'play sick and go away until the thing blew over' in the sense that Mr. Morrissey tries to infer. The Premier told both Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Blair that while the investigation was being held respecting the latter, it was not seemly that he should remain in charge of the Public Works Department, but that in common decency he should absent himself for the time being until his innocence was established. Mr. Blair objected to this on the ground that to take that course would be an admission of his guilt, but it was pointed out to him that if he was innocent, as he said he was, by taking the course advised, it would convince the public that he felt he had nothing to fear and was willing to abide by the result. In reply to Mr. Blair's inquiry as to what he should do while he absented himself, he as told he could do what he liked, and that if his innocence was established he would at once be reinstated and his salary for the meantime paid to him.

Backed Up Blair.

"This was the view of the other members of the Government, also, which Mr. Morrissey not only ignored, but backed up Blair in his refusal to stand down, taking the ground that the charges were of a very trivial character.

"The absurdity of Mr. Morrissey's statement is apparent on the face of it. It is very generally known that when the Premier received the affidavit setting forth the charge against Mr. Blair, he immediately took steps to provide for the appointment of a commission for investigation. This commission was to determine the guilt or innocence of Mr. Blair, and it is hardly likely that, while providing for the tribunal before which Mr. Blair was to be tried, and before which it was necessary that Mr. Blair should appear as a witness in his own behalf, he would at the same time be advising Mr. Blair to get out or feign sickness until the thing had blown over."

Hold-up of Liquor Men.

In reference to the hold-up of liquor

men, the Attorney General goes out of his way to have a fling at Mr. E. S. Carter, who preferred the charges which the Government refused to investigate. He practically admits that the money was collected and paid over, but claims that members of the Government and Legislature had nothing to do with it. The beneficiaries of the hold-up are not mentioned, but it is intimated that the money went to "two legal gentlemen," one of whom is generally supposed to be a member of the firm known as Baxter & Logan. In this connection the reply says:

"Mr. Morrissey is particularly careful not to say to whom the money was paid over. His informant having told him so much, would scarcely fail to give him that information also, and, if he did so fall, Mr. Morrissey would be the last man not to ask. Mr. Morrissey knows perfectly well who demanded the money, who received it, and who kept it. Nobody but a political degenerate like the Opposition organizer would ever think twice of a suggestion that members of the Government or members of the Legislature had attempted to blackmail the liquor interests. Neither does Mr. Morrissey think anything of it, except that it suits his purpose to pretend to do so.

"What reason would the liquor interests have for subsidizing the members of the Government or the Legislature as Mr. Morrissey and his friend Mr. Carter seek to infer that they did? These interests were not threatened, nor in any danger, for Premier Clarke had distinctly told the delegation of the Temperance Association which waited upon him in the early part of the session of 1915 that no prohibitory measure of any kind could or would be brought in during that session.

"If the liquor interests chose to employ two legal gentlemen to spend their time in Fredericton, while the Liquor License bill was before the House, on the ostensible ground that they were looking after the liquor interests, and to pay these gentlemen just whatever sums of money they might choose to demand for their services, on whatever excuses and reasons offered, and whether such services were in fact needed or not, is a matter for the liquor interests to decide for themselves.

"Certain it is that whatever sums were paid to those gentlemen never got beyond them, and certainly never reached any member of the Government. No government that had ever trafficked with the liquor interests, as Mr. Morrissey seeks to make it appear that this Government did, would ever dare to bring in and pass the prohibitory legislation that has gone through the House during the past session."

Although a general denial is given to Mr. Morrissey's statements, he is accused of having violated his oath of

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WAR APPROPRIATION PASSED THE HOUSE

Ottawa, May 7.—When the House took up the bill appropriating \$250,000,000 for war purposes Saturday, Roch Lanctot of Laprairie-Naperville arose to oppose it. He said he wished to protest once more against a policy that was mad and ruinous for the country.

"I know I shall find few supporters in this House," said Mr. Lanctot, "but I can state that there are many people throughout the country who think as I do."

Mr. Lanctot concluded with the declaration that in this country not more than five per cent. of the people were in favor of the government policy on this question of recruiting and that in his opinion the majority of the people of Canada took the same view. He added that if any member of the House moved for the reduction of the vote to \$100,000,000, he would give the motion his hearty support.

Hon. Charles Maclellan asked if the government had thought of modifying the program announced at the beginning of the year of providing for the raising of a smaller force than five hundred thousand men for overseas service.

"We have not considered that," replied S. R. Borden. "We do not propose to depart from the announcement which was made on the first of January last."

The bill was passed and the House took up the estimates of the department of militia.

BIG FEATURES AT GAIETY.

The Gaiety Theatre management selected a line of feature productions for the present week for their many patrons which will undoubtedly set a new high standard for picture fans in Fredericton. Today a fine Metro feature, The House of Tears, featuring Emily Stevens, a play based on the divorce question, will be shown. On Wednesday the charming little screen favorite, Mary Pickford, will be seen in Luther Long's famous opera, Madame Butterfly, a six-part adaptation, and on Friday and Saturday those prime favorites, Grace Cunard and Francis Ford, of Broken Coin fame, will appear in a special Universal feature, The Return of Lady Raffles. The Gaiety Concert Orchestra has prepared a special line of high class music especially adapted to the different productions.

The elap year girl still has plenty of time to look before she leaps.

office by giving information to the Opposition organizer and making public matters which should not have got beyond the Executive Council chamber. There will naturally be some curiosity on the part of the public as to wherein Mr. Morrissey violated his oath of office by making public information which, according to the Attorney General, was incorrect.

This heavy fling at the ex-Minister is worthy of the source from which it emanated:

"Mr. Morrissey started his political life as a member of the Conservative party, and left that party for its own good and because he could not have his own way. History is only repeating itself."

The Attorney General, in concluding his effusion, submits the following which he calls "Some Pertinent Questions" to Hon. Mr. Morrissey:

"Between the times during which Mr. Morrissey is thinking out a few more of the private and confidential conversations in the publication of which he apparently takes so much delight, he might devote himself to the preparation of answers to the following questions, suggested by the statement of facts set forth above:

"1. Why did Mr. Morrissey award the Moncton bridge contract to the highest tenderer in the face of the recommendation of the engineer of the Department that a lower tender be accepted?"

"2. Why has Mr. Morrissey stated, in contradiction of the fact, that he awarded this contract on the recommendation of the Provincial Engineer?"

"3. Why did Mr. Morrissey permit the acceptance, as a gift, by his son of \$5,000 worth of stock of a company with which as the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Morrissey was doing business on behalf of the Province?"

"4. Why did Mr. Morrissey permit his son to accept a contract on the Miramichi bridge from the Foundations Company, Limited, while he himself continued to hold the position of Minister of Public Works?"

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In war-time do not waste time and energy on unimportant and unprofitable work. Economize labour. Put off unproductive work till after the war, and, if possible, help in producing something needed now. Let us not waste labour. Canada needs it all. If possible help to feed the Allies. Make your backyard a productive garden. Cultivate it with a will. Make your labour count for as much as possible.

Do Not Waste Materials

There should be no waste in war-time. Canada could pay the annual interest on her war expenditure out of what we waste on our farms, in our factories, in our homes. Every pound of food saved from waste is as good as a pound of increased production. The way for a nation to save is for every individual to save. France is strong to-day because of thrift in time of peace. The men and women of Great Britain are not only "doing" but are learning to "do without."

Spend Your Money Wisely

Practise economy in the home by eliminating luxuries. Wasting our dollars here weakens our strength at the Front. Your savings will help Canada to finance the war. Save your money for the next Dominion War issue. There can be no better investment.

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