

THE DAILY MAIL.

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THE CHANDLER REPORT.

(No. 2.)

The report which Mr. W. B. Chandler has made upon the investigation which he carried on last summer is a document which calls for much consideration.

It must not be forgotten that Mr. Chandler was appointed an investigating commissioner as a result of a demand made by the Hon. John Morrissey that the Conservative politicians who were going about the country whispering that Morrissey was "crooked" be given an opportunity to come forth and openly charge what they were secretly saying.

The Commissioner was consequently appointed to investigate not only Mr. Morrissey's department, but every department, and the workings under every department of the Government. Mr. Chandler refused to follow his commission in this particular. None of the persons for whom the Commissioner was especially appointed came forth to make any charge. Mr. Chandler went round amongst the officials in the various departments and asked them if they knew of anything wrong, and of course they all said they did not.

Therefore, Mr. Chandler reports that everything in the various departments of the Government is above reproach. The investigation which he made in that respect was superficial and utterly useless. The result of all this is that Mr. Morrissey has succeeded in putting one over on his enemies in the Government party.

But Mr. Carter and Mr. Veniot, the Liberal organizers, did ask for investigation of various important matters. Mr. Chandler, after being advised, it is said, by the Attorney General, refused to investigate the most important of these, and he makes no mention at all of these requests and his refusal in his report. The reason of his failure may perhaps be better understood if it be a fact that he desired to investigate some of the charges, for example the charge in connection with the liquor licenses in St. John, as required, but the Attorney General refused to let him.

But the report in the matters investigated calls for vigorous action on the part of the Attorney General. It will be interesting to watch whether this action will be taken.

"The manner in which Mr. Stewart has acted in connection with departmental or Government matters in Gloucester county, as detailed on the enquiry before me, compels me to be suspicious as to everything he has done and of every transaction with which he is in any way connected."

The Mr. Stewart referred to is Mr. A. J. H. Stewart, a member of the Legislature for the County of Gloucester, and an active supporter of the Clarke-Baxter administration. This paragraph is not taken from a speech by some Liberal attacking Mr. Stewart or the Government. It is a paragraph taken from the Chandler report, made after hearing the evidence and Mr. Stewart's answers on oath. Yet Mr. Stewart remains a member of the House, and we have heard of no request by Premier Clarke for his resignation.

Then a little later, referring to an entry in a return to the Government of a charge made for posts which were supposed to have been used in the Dempsey bridge, but which were never so used, Mr. Chandler says:

"The return was declared to be before Mr. Stewart, and the voucher for these posts made out by Mr. Stewart and signed by Robichaud; but neither of these persons can now give the slightest information with regard to this item."

"It is clear that the item is was put in and who got the

amount charged for the posts remains to be discovered."

In other words, and in plain English, according to the finding of Mr. Chandler, Mr. Robichaud and Mr. Stewart prepared a false return to the Government, by means of which the Government was induced to pay money which was not due. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Robichaud prepared a false voucher; Mr. Robichaud made a declaration to a statement which he knew to be false; and the declaration is of the same force and effect and liable to the same penalties as an oath, and Mr. Stewart permitted the declaration to be made before him as a justice of the peace, knowing the same to be false.

The Attorney General can find here material for several indictments.

Usually, when men take money which does not belong to them, it is called larceny or theft or embezzlement. It used to be so in this province. But it is different now under the Clarke-Baxter Government. When Mr. John Sheridan, as representative in the Legislature for Kent, and a supporter of the Clarke-Baxter Government, accepts from a bridge foreman public money which he did not earn, it is no longer considered a crime—it is only a "minor irregularity." It is probably a minor irregularity beside some of the greater crimes against the public which Mr. Chandler refused to investigate. Yet that is what Mr. Chandler reports as having happened in connection with Little Buclouche bridge.

"In the return in connection with the bridge for October, 1910, Fabian Savoy is down for fourteen days' work at \$1.25, amounting to \$17.50. Timothy Boudreau, who was foreman at the bridge, on being examined, admitted that this work was not done by Savoy, and that this amount was simply put in the return for the benefit of Mr. John Sheridan, who was then a representative for the county of Kent. The foreman says he wanted to help Mr. Sheridan all he could."

And again—
"There are also items in the returns in connection with the bridge in the name of John K.

Sheridan, a son of Mr. Sheridan, the representative."

"Timothy Boudreau, foreman, admitted that forty dollars out of the account appearing to the credit of John K. Sheridan was not really earned by him, and that he did no work for this amount. This amount of forty dollars was put in by the foreman for the benefit of Mr. Sheridan, the representative."

"Being anxious to do something for Mr. Sheridan, the representative, the foreman added various amounts making up forty dollars in all, for the benefit of Mr. Sheridan, the representative, and I presume he eventually got that money."

It is interesting to speculate what the Legislature will do about all this revelation of graft and perjury as found by the Commissioner. If the House follows its precedent in the case of Hon. J. K. Fleming, when he was found guilty of extortion and other wrongdoing, it will pass a resolution approving of the conduct of Messrs. Stewart, Robichaud and Sheridan, with their ill-gotten gains in their pockets, voted with their fellows to exonerate Mr. Fleming. Why should not these gentlemen in their turn expect their fellows to vote to exonerate them?

The Provincial Government, which is composed of a very eminent body of men who went into power pledged to economy, managed to get away with over one million six hundred thousand dollars last year. Whew!

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES

(Continued from page 1.)
EXPENDITURES.

City debt Bond No. 6.....	\$ 500.00
Water Improvement Bond No. 9 and 10	1,000.00
Permanent Street Bond No. 7 and 8	1,000.00
City Hall Improvement Bond No. 17	408.00
Exhibition debt Bond No. 17	251.00
Fire debt Bond No. 3 and 4	1,000.00
	\$ 4,159.00
School trustees.....	31,000.00
Interest City Debt debentures.....	\$5,000.00
Interest Water debentures	4,690.00
Interest Water Improvement debentures	2,440.00
Interest Sewerage debentures	3,290.00
Interest School Debt debentures	280.00
Interest Street debentures	1,080.00
Interest Street Lighting debentures	820.00
Interest Shoe Factory debentures	168.80
Interest City Hall Improvement debentures	69.44
Interest Exhibition Debt debentures	42.72
Interest 1912 Water debentures	440.00
Interest 1913 City debentures	750.00
Interest 1912 Fire debentures	400.00
	19,470.96
School debt sinking fund investment, Bank of Nova Scotia \$ 500.00	
School debt sinking fund interest	82.57
Water sinking fund	1,191.00
Water sinking fund interest.....	78.17
General sinking fund	1,540.00
	3,391.74
Water	\$18,218.99
Sewerage.....	722.44
	18,941.43
Hack and driver licenses	28.00
Dog taxes	66.00
Miscellaneous licenses	16.93
Wharves	157.22
Market and scales	186.84
Roads and streets	8,768.52
Public Works	2,132.39
Street lights	8,272.20
Fire Department	6,153.13
Municipal Home	3,974.15
City Hall	4,098.66
House connections	1,815.17
Contingencies	5,001.21
Board of Health	1,032.03
Victoria Hospital	2,000.00
Old Burial Ground	150.04
Interest and commission	1,599.41
Assessing and collecting	1,766.23
City government	2,525.00
Water construction	836.91
Sewerage construction	186.64
Agricultural Society No. 34	40.00
Fence light	127.68
Administration of justice.....	\$8,581.54
Canada Temperance Act	225.29
Civil Court	825.03
Criminal Court	147.85
	9,779.62
	\$132,877.07
Total Expenditures.	
Bank of Nova Scotia overdraft, Dec. 31, 1914.....	\$33,513.96
Check outstanding Dec. 31, 1914	2.10
Cash on hand Dec. 31st, 1915	1,214.07
	34,730.13
	\$172,707.20

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