

# HON. JOHN MORRISSY PUTS IT UP TO PREMIER CLARKE

## A Stiff Rejoinder to the Letter of the Premier Calling For the Resignation of the Minister of Public Works From the Provincial Government.

**Says He Went to the Lieutenant Governor a Fortnight Ago and Offered to Resign But Was Urged "to Wait a While Longer"---Commissioner Teed Scored---H. M. Blair Urged by the Premier to Play Sick---Some New Light on the Patriotic Potato Scandal---False Information Given to the Public in Answer to Enquiries.**

Following is the full text of the letter of Hon. John Morrissey, Minister of Public Works, in reply to Premier Clarke's demand for his resignation as a member of the Government:

Fredericton, N. B., May 1, 1916.

Hon. George J. Clarke, Premier, St. Stephen, N.B.:

My Dear Premier,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 29, which, however, reached me so late in the afternoon and so shortly before my departure for Newcastle that day, that I was unable to give you a reply then. Before doing so, will you permit me to say that your request for my resignation, coupled with the very same reasons you advance, might well have been made at least a few days earlier, when I would have had an opportunity of replying to you and making my explanation to the people of this province, whom I have served so long, and I think so faithfully, from my seat on the floors of the House of Assembly. However, as you apparently seem to think that that was not desirable, my reply to you, which will be in a great part my message to the public, must be of greater length than it would otherwise be.

At the outset you say that it must have been apparent to me that a change in the Department of Public Works was desirable. I will go further than that, Mr. Premier, and say to you that for a very considerable time it had been most apparent to me that it was my duty to resign from a GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS CONDUCTING THE AFFAIRS OF THIS PROVINCE IN A MANNER THAT WAS CERTAINLY NOT BRINGING CREDIT UPON ITSELF AD CAUSING MUCH DISCREDIT TO THOSE WHO WERE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A PART IN THE CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS. That, Sir, had impressed itself upon me very strongly at the time of your taking office, and you will remember that I insisted then, as a condition to continuing as a member of the Government under you as the new Premier, that a royal commission should be appointed to examine into the affairs of the Department of Public Works so as to give opportunity for proof to Messrs. James K. Pinder, Woods, Price, Jones and others who had been circulating accusations of graft and dishonesty against me, a minister of the Government which they supported.

You agreed to this, and yet, instead of the appointment of a royal commissioner being credited to my demand, you and the Attorney General, on the floors of the House, at the first session of 1915, announced it as the intention of the Government to hold an investigation into all departments and to find out any wrong-doing and who was responsible for it.

### AWAITING PROPER OPPORTUNITY.

The investigation and report of Mr. W. B. Chandler was long delayed, and while I felt that I was out of place in the Government over which you presided, yet to resign while the investigator was at work, to retire from the Government while my department was under fire, would have been an act of cowardice and would have been so heralded throughout the length and breadth of this province. I remained, therefore, as you know, because of this, until this present session opened, for I did not feel it well until you had brought Mr. Chandler's report officially before the Legislature, to make any move toward resigning.

Your reference to the recent action of the Government in cancelling the contract entered into by my Department with the Foundation Company, Ltd., gives an opportunity that I must take advantage of. The contract was awarded about the first of April, 1915. It was awarded ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ENGINEER OF MY DEPARTMENT, MR. A. R. WETMORE, an engineer whose honesty and ability nobody in this country will dispute; and yet, in spite of that, in spite of the well known financial and engineering ability of the company in question, YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT LENT YOURSELVES TO A PLOT AND SCHEME, NOT ONLY TO DEFAUD THE FOUNDATIONS, LIMITED, OF A CONTRACT PROPERLY GOT, BUT TO ENDEAVOR, BY CALLING FOR NEW TENDERS, TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF YOUR POLITICAL FRIENDS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

You are aware from letters recently published in the newspapers, and from inquiries asked in the House of Assembly by the Opposition, that the plot was exposed through a telegram and letter, the telegram being sent by the President of your Executive Council, Hon. John E. Wilson, on April 8, 1915, to A. S. Curry, of the Rhodes, Curry Company, of Amherst, N. S. That telegram, Mr. Premier, which stated "The Moncton bridge contract is not quite settled yet. I am looking after your interests," DISCLOSED THE TRUE RELATION BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND OTHER CONTRACTORS. If anything were needed to prove my assertion, the letter of A. S. Curry, vice-president of the Rhodes Curry Company, in answer to Hon. J. E. Wilson, the President of your Council, thanking him for his telegram, and stating that the work was almost absolutely necessary to insure the election of E. N. Rhodes in Cumberland county, N. S., is surely sufficient to convince you, and if not you, the people of this province, that the true reason for the cancellation of the contract of the Foundations Company of Montreal was not because it was improperly awarded, but because it suited the political purpose of you and your Conservative friends that the contract should go elsewhere.

### THE TEED INVESTIGATION.

I am obliged to you for reference to the recent investigation of M. G. Teed, Esq., K. C., into charges made against the secretary of my department, H. M. Blair. You complained that I did not suspend Mr. Blair during the period of his investigation.

What will the people say, my dear Premier, when they learn that YOU PROPOSED TO THIS SAME OFFICIAL, MR. BLAIR, THAT DURING THE INVESTIGATION HE SHOULD PLAY SICK, OR GO AWAY FOR A TIME UNTIL IT BLEW OVER, WITH THE PROMISE TO MR. BLAIR THAT HIS SALARY WOULD BE FORWARDED TO HIM REGULARLY? Do you forget making that proposition to him over the telephone? If you do, I have a distinct recollection of receiving the message outlining the proposition that you had made to him. Mr. Blair not only told me at the time, but he informed many personal friends who can substantiate what he says.

I refused to suspend Mr. Blair because I knew the character of the man Colby who made the affidavit, and I knew also of the great pressure that had been brought to bear upon him to secure the affidavit. I knew also of the visits of Messrs. Woods and Price, the organizers and whips of the party of whose Government I was a member to Ottawa, and their arguments, together

with those of Mr. Pinder, financial and otherwise, that persuaded this man to come forward and make charges that in my mind were ridiculous and false, against my secretary of public works.

### FEARFUL OF THE FACTS.

I need not discuss Mr. Teed's finding at this present time, further than to say that I have been assured by the most eminent lawyers in New Brunswick who have read it that he departed from the usual fair and honorable practice of giving every man a chance in his conduct of the investigation. Then let me recall for a moment the fact that you were so fearful of the facts that might be brought out, that you made the investigation secret and the evidence taken then, which would have been published from day to day in the newspapers, has never yet been made public, and the people do not know upon what evidence Mr. M. G. Teed made his finding.

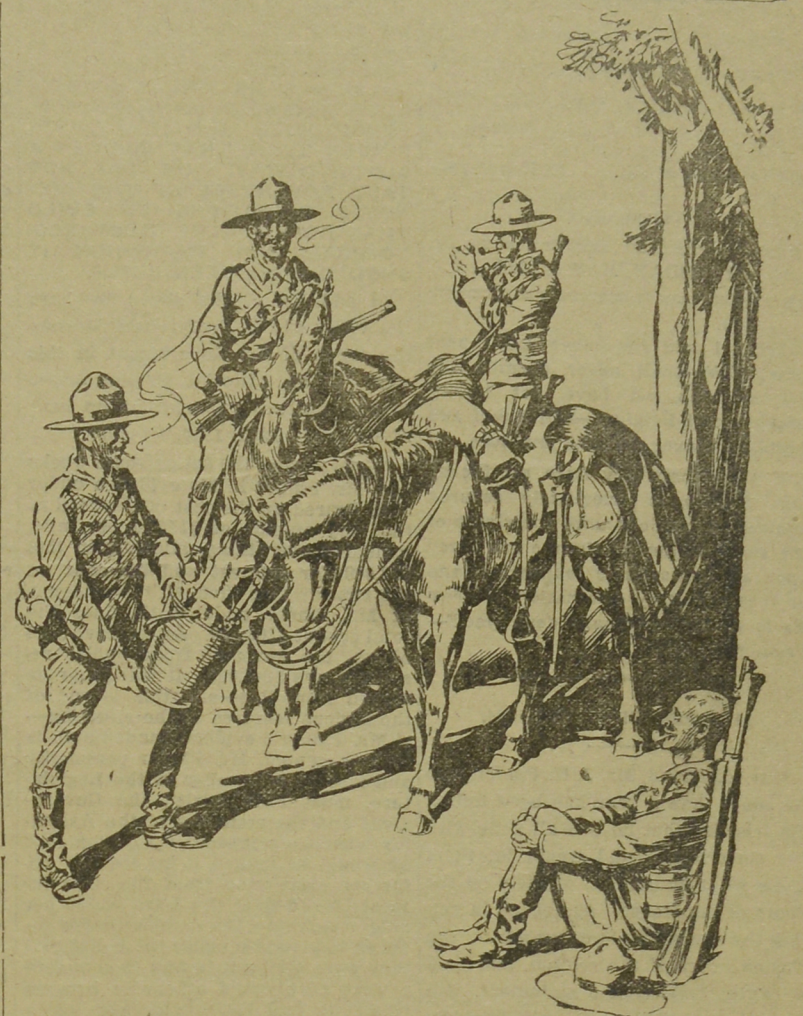
As for your further complaint that I seemed reluctant to discuss Mr. Blair after Mr. Teed's finding, need I remind you that he was NOT APPOINTED BY ME, BUT BY AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT AND I FELT THAT THE SAME POWER WHICH APPOINTED HIM SHOULD TAKE ACTION LOOKING TOWARDS HIS DISMISSAL.

You are careful enough to say that the Teed report does not reflect upon me personally. That was unnecessary, my dear Premier. If Mr. Teed had discovered any thing which would have in the slightest degree reflected upon me, he would not have hesitated to say so. He did not hesitate to bring in the name of my son, and in reality to strike at the father through him; but he was not man enough, he was not fair enough, when the slightest evidence appeared touching either of us, to invite us to come to his tribunal to give evidence. I do not give the snap of my finger for the verdict of such a man.

You speak, Mr. Premier, of the determination of the Government to insist on "maintenance of high character in the public service." AND IF THAT SENTIMENT CAME FROM ANYONE ELSE I WOULD HEARTILY APPLAUD IT; BUT LET ME RECALL FOR YOUR INFORMATION SOME THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, WHICH DO NOT SEEM TO AGREE WITH THE LOFTINESS OF PURPOSE THAT YOU HAVE EXPRESSED.

You surely cannot be in earnest in holding that view, WHEN YOU PER-

(Continued on page 5.)



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## The Printing and Publicity Specialist Talks To His Son

"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."

"Why, I never heard of such a thing," said John. "The idea of getting quotations from a doctor; it's the asylum for you."

"Well now, why not? I am a specialist in printing and publicity. I study my business just as carefully as any doctor can do. If I do say it that shouldn't, I have just as much brains as the average doctor. I strive to give my customers the benefit of my knowledge, my artistic skill and judgement and my ideas on publicity. I give service as the term is understood in the Twentieth Century."

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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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