

H. M. Blair Must Quit Public Works Department

Report of Commissioner Teed Finds Him Guilty of Conduct Unbecoming an Official--Held Stock in Concern Which Had Government Contracts--Blair was a Protege of Col. McLeod and a Close Friend of Col. Guthrie.

The Teed report has not yet been laid upon the table of the House, and its contents are only known officially to members of the Government and to those members present at the caucus Wednesday evening. And yet hour by hour the findings of the Commissioner are leaking out and they are really more serious than at first given out.

The government organ, which is officially informed, says the Commissioner found that "a block of stock worth \$10,000 of Concrete Constructions, Ltd., had been given to Mr. Blair and accepted by him while that company had been engaged on a contract painting the steel bridges of the province. Upon this latter phase of the charges, it is understood the report was particularly strong and also dwelt upon the fact which had transpired from Mr. Blair's evidence that he (Blair) had expected an income of \$700 per annum from the stock and that a block of \$5,000 of the stock had been given to Charles J. Morrissey, of Newcastle, son of the Minister of Public Works."

This relation has created a greater sensation than anything else. After the Minister's statement in the House on Tuesday that he would not hang a cat on Colby's word, no one thought for a moment that he could be even remotely connected with any transaction of Colby's. The Minister may be able to explain, and everyone hopes that for his own sake he can deny any knowledge of this. But there must be an explanation at the earliest possible moment.

A different phase is placed upon the situation by this wretched revelation. Why a son of the Minister of Public Works should be presented with \$5,000 worth of stock from a company that was making an exorbitant profit from a contract executed in his department, is what everyone is asking.

Premier Clarke took a hand in the business. He summoned H. M. Blair and demanded his resignation. Blair refused, contending, it is said, that the evidence did not warrant the findings, that his explanation of the stock transaction should satisfy any fair-minded man. He claims that Colby bunched him, offering him the management of the company and a generous salary if he would resign his position as secretary of the board of works and as an evidence of their good faith the company transferred ten thousand dollars of stock to him which was part of the agreement. The company did not come to time and Blair returned the stock.

Blair admitted that he was indiscreet, but nothing more and told the premier that if he resigned it would be taken as an admission of guilt. The premier was firm, however, and gave him until the afternoon to resign. In the afternoon Blair still refused and the statement is now made that he will be dismissed by order-in-council.

Report Condemns Blair.

The Legislative correspondent of The St. John Times, in a despatch to his paper dealing with the report of Commissioner Teed on the Blair case, says:

The Teed report upon the Colby charges condemns Harry M. Blair, the deputy minister of public works for New Brunswick. It is understood that the report was brought up in caucus last night and considered in a certain manner. Commissioner Teed found that that the secretary of the public works department, who sometimes is called the deputy minister, H. M. Blair, was guilty of several acts that were not in keeping with his position as a public official of the province.

The charges of Colby with reference to a rake off on the purchase of gasoline, which was largely used in the engines of the plant for cleaning the steel bridges, were not proven

at work since and the report of Mr. Chandler, after long delay, is now on the table of the House. It would be a curious thing to see Blair dismissed for his offences and to find Martin Robichaud still in the House after what Commissioner Chandler said about him. Commissioner Chandler went so far as to say that the particular road superintendent referred to was entirely under the control of this member, Martin Robichaud, who still sits in his place in the House of Assembly.

Treat All Alike.

A. J. H. Stewart has gone, forced out by the action of Mr. Dugal in spite of his resolution being moved out of order. He thought it best to resign. The work of house cleaning has just begun and there is a lot to do. James K. Pinder, who was condemned by a commission in connection with the construction of the Southamptton Railway, still occupies his seat in the New Brunswick legislature, but Harry Blair, official, must go, while the members whose examples he has followed still retain their seats and the ex-premier, the very disciple of graft, is a Conservative candidate in the County of Carleton.

Blair cannot be defended. He must pay the penalty for violation of the rules which should govern the conduct of every good public official. But to condemn Blair and to accept Pinder, to condemn Blair and to hobnob with Robichaud still as a member, to condemn Blair and still to recognize Flemming as a candidate in Carleton county is so preposterous as to excite sympathy.

H. M. Blair apparently accepted gifts from contractors. The law regards such gifts as bribes and the official who takes them cannot get clear from the charge of bribery, but all officials do not follow such things out to their legitimate end. They see the men who are in charge of the public affairs, the leader of the government and other officials profit by their position. Blair, no doubt, knew for he was and is as clever as you make men of the many transactions of Flemming, of the shady transactions of other government officials, of very many things of which representatives sitting in the House knew, and which will condemn them utterly in public opinion when the facts are known.

Not the Only Sinner.

They say if Blair goes down the political shanties of many of his opponents will crumble. Blair has been imprudent, indiscreet, unwise, but there is one thing that he did not do, he did not betray the people who trusted him, for he was not a representative. The men who have been hounding him have been elected by the people and some of them, in fact all of them who have been most active in their pursuit of Blair have also been most active in profiting every way, shape and manner and advancing their private interests at the public interest.

BUSINESS LIGHT IN LOCAL HOUSE

The House met on Thursday at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiry regarding David Ladds of Margerville, as an occupant of the Provincial Hospital.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiry as to the amount paid for rental for mining rights by the Canadian Antimony Company, and also as to the nature of Mr. William McMullen's employment in the Crown Land Department.

Hon. Mr. Murray brought down the papers in connection with the export of rossi pulpwood and also the papers in connection with the construction of the St. John Valley Railway, as asked.

The house went into committee. Mr. Humphrey in the chair, took up the consideration of a bill to incorporate the Wilson's Beach Public Hall Company.

After some discussion, Mr. Guptill moved to report progress in order that he might make some inquiries.

The House then took up consideration of the St. Croix Power Company's bill.

Mr. Smith said this bill had been the subject of very strong opposition during its passage through the Corporations Committee, and before being passed by the present committee it should be given very full and careful consideration.

After some discussion, participated in by Messrs. Shipp, Tilley, Munro, Baxter and others, progress was reported.

The House adjourned at 5:30 to allow the Government supporters to meet in caucus.

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If you want to prove how pretty and soft your hair really is, moisten a cloth with a little Danderine and carefully draw it through your hair—taking one small strand at a time. Your hair will be soft, glossy and beautiful in just a few moments—delightful surprise awaits everyone who tries this.

EASTER.

Easter's coming, gentle students.

With its raptures and its joys.

With new bonnets for the ladies.

And new neckties for the boys.

With its fine array of flowers.

With its skies of azure hue.

With its bunnies for the children

But with something else for you.

With its holidays long looked for.

With its eggs in plenty too.

With its many friendly greetings.

But with something else for you.

All these things are Easter bringing.

All these raptures and these joys.

But what else is Easter bringing

To the Normal girls and boys?

It is bringing thoughts of study.

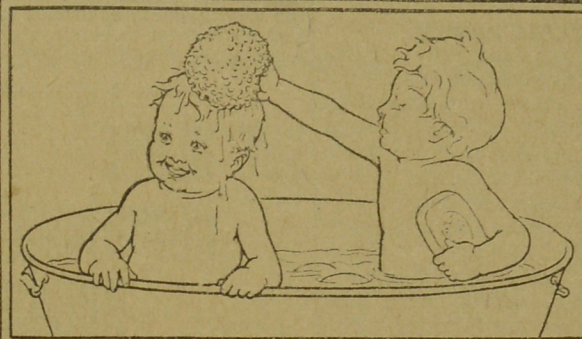
Many thoughts and many plans.

But first of all the thought it brings us

Is the thought of "Our Exams!"

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Rossley's Famous English Lilliputian and
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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.

"When some people around here have a little printing to be done, they visit all the printing offices, get quotations from each one, and then give the work to the man who gives the lowest figures.

"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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