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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

W. B. TENNANT SAYS HE PAID \$20,000 OVER TO A ST. JOHN TORY BOSS

Threatened by Commissioner Stevens With Jail for Contempt, Ex-Parson Tells What Become of Some of the Valley Railway Boodle.

ST. JOHN, Aug. 18.—A payment of \$20,000 to Thomas Bell for the "central financial committee of the Conservative party," was confessed by W. B. Tennant at the Valley Railway inquiry yesterday afternoon. The confession was not made willingly. At the morning session Mr. Tennant firmly refused to tell to whom he had paid the money. F. B. Carvell, who was conducting the examination, insisted, but Mr. Tennant persisted in his refusal. Then the choice between an answer and a commitment to jail was offered Mr. Tennant. A heightened color and the nervous twitching of his hands betrayed the strain under which the witness was laboring. As he shifted uneasily in his seat, he cast appealing glances at his counsel, but that gentleman could not give the needed aid and his client had to make his own decision.

Commissioner Stevens allowed the question, and repeated it to the witness, but still Mr. Tennant refused. Then an opportunity to consider the matter until after lunch was offered, and the witness eagerly accepted it.

Paid the Money to Thomas Bell.

When the court resumed in the afternoon there was tense interest in the proceedings, but the course which Mr. Tennant had elected to pursue was indicated by his chastened manner, in which no trace of his morning belligerency was visible.

There was reason for his more respectful attitude, for in the commissioner's hand was the commitment, ready for signature, in case the answer should be refused.

"To whom was the cash paid?" the commissioner repeated. "To the central financial committee of the Conservative party, of which Mr. Thomas Bell is treasurer," was the prompt response.

"To what particular individual did you pay the \$20,000?" the commissioner inquired later.

"To Mr. Thomas Bell," came the reply.

Contract Price Increased.

Mr. Carvell had pointed out that the \$20,000 payment that Mr. Tennant had admitted during the morning was paid for political purposes, was made just two days after Mr. Tennant had received a similar amount from the Nova Scotia Construction Co. on the occasion of their receiving a new contract which gave them something like \$76,000 more than provided for by the existing contract. Mr. Tennant had maintained that there was no connection between the two payments and repeated the assertion in a statement made at the afternoon session.

The admission of the payment of \$20,000, no matter what its source, was of special interest in view of previous evidence given by Mr. Tennant regarding the amounts of his contributions for political purposes, when he had set the limit as a few thousand dollars.

In his examination of Mr. Tennant's books, P. F. Blanchet, the auditor, had been able to account for only \$8,200, which had been disbursed for political purposes. Of this amount Mr. Tennant said \$5,000 had been paid on account of the \$20,000 political note which had been discounted, and the balance had been paid to the Conservative committees in St. John county. The uncovering of the additional payment of \$20,000 was only achieved as the result of Mr. Carvell's merciless examination of the witness.

One "Cash" Check for \$40,000.

As an illustration of this habit of issuing checks to "Cash," mention was made of one payment of \$40,000 which was disbursed in this manner. The check for this amount was drawn on the same day that Mr. Tennant deposited the \$10,000 which he received from the Nova Scotia Construction Co. when their contract was signed in May 1916.

The Westmorland by-election was held May 31, 1916.

Mr. Blanchet testified, in support of Mr. Tennant's evidence, that he still had all the money that he received from the construction company, that it was all represented in Mr. Tennant's business by either securities or cash, with the exception of the \$8,200 already mentioned. Apparently even the \$20,000 which Mr. Tennant later admitted having paid for political purposes was still in Mr. Tennant's possession, so far as the auditor had been able to learn.

Second in interest only to that given by Mr. Tennant, was the evidence given by Thomas Nagle. This gentleman told of the formation of the partnership between himself and Kennedy & McDonald, through which he was to receive half of the profits resulting

from their work on the Valley Railway. He told of "forcing" Mr. Lindsay to concede generous terms to his partners on the sub-contract and of his own course in securing from his partners an agreement for the payment of \$20,000, when the contract was signed, and of his collecting the money. This, he said, was all purely a business transaction arranged without reference to political influence or any other than business considerations.

His statements to McDonald that he had to have another payment on account of his agreement because of an obligation to see that some agreement was carried out and that he had to put up the balance, Mr. Nagle characterized as a "bluff" to aid him in getting what was rightfully due him.

Mr. Nagle was unable to throw any additional light on the mystery surrounding the circumstances under which the bogus tender submitted by Kennedy & McDonald was prepared. He found the form of tender, all ready for presentation with the figures filled in at rates just a little higher than that of the Nova Scotia Construction Co., lying on his desk one day when he returned to the office. He made no inquiries regarding whence it came or why it was there, but took advantage of its presence to have it signed by Kennedy & McDonald and submitted to the proper authorities at Fredericton.

Two Days Before By-Election.

William McDonald gave some additional evidence regarding Mr. Nagle's methods of collecting his debts when he told of Mr. Nagle pressing Mr. Kennedy for a payment of \$5,000, just two

CANADIANS TAKE MORE POSITIONS

London, Aug. 18.—In the Lens theatre of operations the Canadians yesterday added still another strong section of the German defences to the positions already wrested from the enemy.

The Canadians attacked a strongly fortified trench system just a little northwest of Lens and after several hours of hand-to-hand fighting captured it. The assault was on a front of approximately 450 yards and the Germans made a determined resistance because of the importance of the position, which forms a part of the city itself.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Goodchild and daughter of Toronto are at the Barker House.

Mr. Charles Robinson of St. John, secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Association, is at the Barker House.

SCOTT ACT HAS HAD LONG AND INTERESTING HISTORY

In Effect in Fredericton Upwards of Thirty-Eight Years—First Sentence of Imprisonment Under C. T. A. Passed in Fredericton Police Court—Appeal Carried to Privy Council at London and Decision Sustained—Other Facts in That Connection.

The declaration of the electors of Fredericton that they are in favor of repeal of the Canada Temperance Act recalls to mind events connected with the enforcement of the Act in Fredericton during the period of almost forty years that it has been in effect.

This city declared in favor of the Act in 1878 soon after it was passed. The order-in-Council bringing the act into force was passed January 8th, 1879, and the act became effective on the expiration of the liquor licenses, April 30th.

The popular name of Scott Act was given the measure because it was introduced in the Canadian House of Senate by the late Sir Richard Scott. The adoption of the Act in this city did away with a large number of licensed wholesale and retail liquor stores which were in existence at the time. It is said that even under low license illegal sales of liquor in Fredericton were frequent.

Carried to Privy Council

Prosecutions under the act began soon after it came into effect and to the Fredericton Police Court fell the distinction of imposing the first sentence of imprisonment as a penalty under the C. T. A. The late John L. Marsh was the magistrate who imposed the sentence and the appeal from his judgement was carried to the Privy Council at London and the sentence was there sustained. The late Col. Marsh always prided himself upon that particular case.

Frequent Appeals.

In the early days of the act practically every case was fought on appeal until the various amendments to the act passed during a long period of years made it a law from which there was no appeal and from the penalties of which there was little chance of escape. It is freely predicted that the Provincial License Act will be found defective and that there will be the same numerous appeals.

days before the Carleton bye-election, on the ground that "he had promised it to some one and that if Mr. Kennedy did not put it up he would have to pay it out of his own pocket."

A naive and interesting bit of evidence was that contributed by Mr. Tennant regarding the tender submitted by Roy Smith. Mr. Smith had testified that he had been summoned to Mr. Tennant's office and the latter had offered to form a company to tender for the work, provided the prices were high enough. Mr. Tennant's version of the matter was that he treated the young man as a joke and merely agreed to go in with him to get rid of him.

Having cleared up the available witnesses, Mr. Carvell asked for an adjournment until Sept. 4, when Thomas Bell will be asked to tell what he knows with reference to the matter under inquiry. In doing so, Mr. Carvell suggested that an interim report might be submitted for the guidance of the government in dealing with the existing contract, adding the interesting announcement that the government had cancelled the contract entered into on February 8th of this year at the time Mr. Tennant got the \$20,000.

Messrs. Bell and Nagle are directors of the Standard.

The Allies Make Progress On Franco-Belgian Front

CANADIANS MET TRAGIC DEATH

London, Aug. 18.—Six Canadians were killed and twenty-three injured in the accidental explosion of a mine during a mimic war at the manoeuvres camp at Hampshire Thursday, according to the Daily Mail.

Mrs. A. Sherwood and children have returned from a visit to their former home in Hillsboro.

Moncton Transcript: Mrs. Storm and Miss Storm have returned home after a visit with relatives and friends in Fredericton and Woodstock.

Many German Prisoners and Guns Captured---Tons of Bombs Dropped on Enemy's Airdromes--Severe Fighting On the Russian Front.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—French troops in the Ypres area have progressed in the neighborhood of the river Steenbeke.

On the British portion of this front, according to the official report from British headquarters in France tonight, there had been no change, and the Germans have ceased their counter attacks. The French and British troops have captured twenty-four German guns.

The number of prisoners taken by the Canadians in the Loos-Lens sector has now reached a total of 1,120, including 23 officers. "We carried out last night a successful raid east of Vermelles," says the War Office statement. "The enemy's support line was reached and many casualties were inflicted."

"There was great activity in the air yesterday, although a strong west wind made fighting difficult. Our airplanes were able to carry out their tasks successfully. Hostile airdromes were cleared with machine gunfire from a height of a few score feet. A total of 9½ tons of bombs were dropped on the enemy airdromes, railway stations and billets.

"Other machines directly assisted our infantry in their attacks, harrassing the German infantry and gunners with machine gunfire. Fifteen hostile machines were brought down and eleven others driven down out of control. One German observation balloon was also brought down. Eleven of our airplanes are missing."

FIGHTING ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 17.—(British Admiralty, per wireless press) Austro-German attacks in southwestern Moldavia, especially in the region of Fokshani, have been repulsed by the Russians and Roumanians. In the region of Ocna the Austro-Germans have made no gain, says the official report issued today by the War Office.

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 18.—Another phase of the battle of Flanders has ended and the Allies are looking on one of the great achievements of the war. The French yesterday were consolidating the positions won Thursday and the British were establishing themselves well beyond Langemark, their forward positions being about half a mile to the east of that place.

SISTER PATCH & VICTORIA WON AT MOOSEPATH

Big Crowd Out to See Short
Ship Circuit Meet at St.
John—2.26 Went
Five Heats.

St. John, Aug. 18.—Sister Patch, a Prince Edward Island horse, won the 2.18 class at Moosepath yesterday in straight heats and Victoria, owned by Dr. D. H. McAllister of Sussex, won the 2.26 after five heats. Bingen Light, a St. John horse, won the first heat and Victoria the second. Will Be Sure, driven by Ed Dalton of Newcastle, took third. Victoria captured the next two. A big crowd saw some interesting racing.

The summary:

Class 2.18.
Sister Patch, H. R. Crockett,
Summerside 1 1 1
Pearl Pick, W. J. Alexander, St.
John 2 2 3
Dan O., A. P. Ryan, St. John . . . 3 2
Mattie March, Dr. Gilchrist, Nor-
ton 4 4 4
Time, 2.23, 2.22½, 2.22½.

Class 2.26.
Victoria, Dr. McAllister, Sus-
sex 4 1 2 1 1
Will Be Sure, Ed Dalton,
Newcastle 8 6 1 4 2
Bingen Light, H. C. Coates,
St. John 1 5 7 5 4
Claude C., James Hennes-
sy, River Hebert 2 3 6 2 3
Lula H., Albert Hunter,
Bathurst 5 9 9 7
Marshall M., Jr., Thomas
Leahy, Halifax 7 7 5 8
Miss Keifer, Thomas Ray-
mond, Fredericton 3 2 3 3
Jenny Penn, Alex. Long, St.
John 6 8 8
Little Kittle, Dr. Gilchrist,
Norton ds
Time, 2.24½, 2.24, 2.26, 2.25, 2.25.
Judges — Frank Boutiller, Halifax;
Frank Morris, St. John; F. W. Peters,
Summerside. Starter — J. S. Neil, St.
John. Timers — D. Connolly, W. E.

RACER DIES SUDDENLY IN ST. JOHN STABLE

Legal Action May Result—
Rumors That Animal was
Doped—Trained Here
for Matched Race.

(St. John Globe.)

Following an attack of illness, first noticeable on the day she raced Troas at Moosepath, about three weeks ago, the fast racing mare, Helen Brown, died on Thursday afternoon at the stables of her owner, Mr. William McDonald. The mare was brought to the city several months ago, along with a lot of standard bred horses, by Mr. Thomas Hayes, and soon showed that she possessed a wonderful burst of speed.

After Troas had achieved a remarkable victory at Halifax, when he defeated the field, arrangements were entered into to have the pair meet. Helen Brown, or as she was then known, The Stranger, was taken to Fredericton and trained faithfully. On the Saturday before the race, which was held on a Monday, she was brought to the city and was pronounced to be in first class condition by local horsemen who saw her at the time.

On the afternoon of the race, shortly before the start, she became ill, but was taken to the track. Her spirits, however, were gone, and with tongue hanging out and coated with sweat, she was defeated in three straight heats.

Following the match, veterinaries were called in attendance, but despite their skill the mare failed to respond.

There was considerable betting on the race, and rumors have been floating about for some time that the mare was doped. There is much talk about the matter among horsemen and others. Legal proceedings are spoken of.

Baxter, J. J. Goudet, all of St. John.