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Fall is indeed a charming season—especially when it includes prices.

Some folks go to the movies to get the thrills they never have in real life; others go to forget the real excitement they have had.

Reaching the age of sixteen without being kissed is an achievement for a girl. But if she gets to be twenty one before being kissed she doesn't boast about it.

## WHAT THINGS WERE LIKE UNDER OLD GOVERNMENT

How Col. Guthrie, a Returned Soldier, Exposed a Shameful Plot to Ruin Him Politically—Was Hatched by the Pinder Wing of the Party—J. Mal. Chappell's Heroic Effort to Save the Old Crowd from Destruction.

Most of the electors of York will be able to recall the villainous plot hatched in the ranks of the old government party in this city to ruin Col. Percy A. Guthrie, during the period that he was a member of the Legislature. An affidavit was made by J. Mal. Chappell of this city who set forth that Col. Guthrie had recommended that he be given a small government contract in consideration of a rake-off of \$75. The details of the plot were carefully worked up but something went wrong. A party friend tipped off the Colonel and he let the cat out of the bag in a speech in the Legislature. It will be recalled that the Colonel had a few months before returned from the war. At the very time this diabolical plot for his political ruin was conceived he was suffering from a terrible wound and was going about on crutches. His speech in the House completely upset the apple cart of the plotters, but all the sympathy he got from the party whips who took part in the debate, was that they sincerely hoped that he would be able to "prove his innocence".

### The Official Report

Here is the official report of Col. Guthrie's speech and the debate which ensued thereon. It should be read by all lovers of fair play and the fact should be kept in mind that the same "old crowd" are now seeking to gain control of the government of this province:

House of Assembly, April 20, 1916.

The House met at three o'clock.

Lt. Colonel Guthrie rose to a question of privilege. He had been told that Joshua M. Chappell, one of the employees of this House had said that he had paid him (Guthrie) the sum of \$75 for getting him a contract which he obtained some time ago to lay concrete sidewalks around the legislative buildings. That information came as a great surprise to him, but inasmuch as his informant was a reputable citizen and a personal friend he could not very well doubt the truth of this statement. He immediately set about to find Chappell, and after some trouble managed to locate him at his home, where he told him what he had heard. Chappell denied that he had ever said anything of the kind, and said that he had not paid me \$75 or any other sum for using my influence to get him the contract, but he told me that there was trouble in the party and he had been approached by the two custodians of the party interests. He had said that Harry Blair, who had been dismissed from the government's employ, was going to make a statement, which would throw considerable mud on the party. There was only one man that could "put the squeeze" on Blair, and that man was himself (Guthrie) and that by the party putting the squeeze on him they could put the squeeze on Blair and make him keep

his mouth shut. Chappell went on to say that they (he and Guthrie) had always been good friends and he had no desire whatever to hurt him at all, but the party must be saved and he (Chappell) was going to do what he could to save it. He further said that he felt assured that if Blair made no statement or revelations nothing would be done about this matter. He also said that he met him (Guthrie) on the street one day and spoke to him about getting the work and that he (Guthrie) told him that he would have to go to the Board of Works Department and pay Blair ten per cent of the price to get the job.

### Was Dumbfounded

This alleged statement, he said, dumbfounded him. Next day, however, Chappell said, he went to the department and got the job, and after the job was completed he paid \$75 over to Mr. T. V. Monahan of this city.

After hearing Chappell's story he denied to him as he denied to the House now that he ever had any such conversation with Chappell or with the Public Works Department or recommended Chappell for the job. His colleague, Mr. Young, also says that he has no recollection whatever of anything being done on Chappell's behalf, nor did he (Young) know anything about the contract until the work was under way. Personally he knew nothing whatever of it until his return from the front. The time this conversation was alleged to have taken place was on October 7th, 1914 and the date of the contract was October 8th 1914. He (Guthrie) left Fredericton for the front on the 20th of August, and at the time the conversation is alleged to have taken place he was on the water. He did not know neither did he care what Harry Blair held against the government, or against any member of the House, but he (Guthrie) would allow no screws to be put on him on behalf of Blair or anybody else. He (Guthrie) had no connection whatever with the transaction referred to. He had learned that the \$75 referred to was paid on a certain election note which had attained some little notoriety and he was told also by a friend that the two custodians of the party interests to whom Chappell referred were Mr. H. W. Woods, one of the members for Queen's, and Mr. O. B. Price, the member for Moncton. He made the statement he then did because he understood the story was going around, and he thought it his duty in justice to himself to take the earliest opportunity of giving the lie to it.

### MR. Woods Heard From

Mr. Woods said that he felt that he should make a statement in this connection inasmuch as his name had been mentioned by the hon. member for York. The stories upon which this matter was founded has been very

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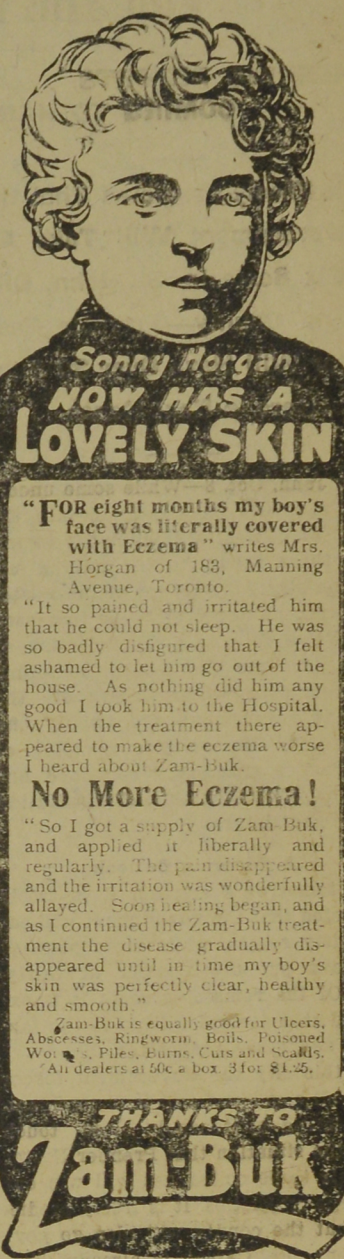
rife about the streets of Fredericton. He had heard of them not from Mr. Chappell, but from other sources. He did not go to Chappell, but met him one day on the street and he (Chappell) asked him if he had heard the story, and he (Wood) told him that he had better make an affidavit. Sometime later Chappell asked him what about the member for York in connection with the matter, and he had told him that the only thing for him to do was if he was going to make any statement at all to tell the truth. Continuing, Mr. Woods said that he had no desire to believe Chappell's story. The statement which he (Chappell) had made had referred to the honorable member for York and if he (Guthrie) had done anything wrong he (Wood) was only sorry and hoped that the hon. member for York would be able to establish his innocence, in any event of the matter being carried any further.

### Dr. Price's Statement

Dr. Price said he regretted that he had not heard the earlier portion of the remarks of the hon. member for York, but as his name had been mentioned by the hon. member for York who had risen to speak regarding his friend Mr. Blair, the ex-secretary of public works, he felt he should make some statement. He had heard the hon. member for York say that he (Price) had approached Chappell respecting the matter referred to.

Colonel Guthrie said that he had said that Chappell had made such a statement.

Dr. Price, continuing, said he wanted to say that he did not approach Chappell, and he did not know anything about the insinuations which had been made. On the other hand this matter has been common rumor and on one occasion he had spoken with Chappell about it. Chappell asked him if he had heard regarding the \$75 rakeoff which he had to pay to Blair on account of the contract which he had for constructing a sidewalk in front of the Legislative building. He had told Chappell that it was brand new to him but as to what Chappell had stated regarding any persons other than Blair he had not talked about it generally. He did not think that it was right to herald around the country what Chappell had said although it did not infringe upon the honor of a member of this House. He would be glad too if the hon. member who had been referred to would be able to prove that he was absolutely innocent. He did not take backwater regarding anything that he had said regarding the public works department and he did not take back one word or regret any action that he had taken respecting the trip that he had made to Ottawa as the result of stories which had been rumored around in connection with the public works department. He thought it would be well if the hon. member for York would allow matters respecting the secretary of public works to drop as



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the more they were going into the worse they looked. He was out of the service and he presumed he was out for good. He regretted that he had been unable to be present to hear the earlier portion of Col. Guthrie's remarks as there might be some matter which had then been referred to respecting which he would like to speak.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that for the benefit of the member from Moncton he would explain that it had been suggested that this matter was being worked up for the purpose of having something to restrain Mr. Blair from stating something which he might have to reveal respecting members of this House.

Dr. Price said that that was absolutely untrue.

Col. Guthrie said that he had stated that that was what Chappell had said.

### A Happy Family

Dr. Price, continuing said that if Blair had anything to say against anybody let him say it. There had been too much barefaced bluffery along

(Continued on Page Six)

## Everybody Smokes

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