

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 28, 1910

A SERIOUS MATTER

The more the latest Crockett Libel Case is considered, the more apparent does it become that ordinary decency has been disregarded and the fundamental principles of British justice have been ignored. It is not the desire of The Mail to discuss any matter that is of interest to private persons only, not to occupy its columns with the bickerings and disputes between individuals. But if the administration of justice in this country becomes prostituted to the petty interests of some group, whether political or otherwise; if the most sacred rights of the subject can be trampled under foot by a desperate band of adventurers, who will not stop at making use of the representatives of the Crown to shield them from punishment; then a matter which in its origin was and should have continued to be one of little more than private concern suddenly becomes of grave importance, indeed of such sterling magnitude as to call all who are interested in the preservation of our free institutions to begin to ask; how is this cancer in our public life to be removed before it has corrupted our civilization and robbed us of our rights. In such case the Mail considers it a duty which it owes the public to see that the matter is properly weighed by the people and that the coterie who are responsible are made known to the public.

Individual freedom has been developed within the British Empire as it has never been before. The British Constitution is the model which all other free nations follow. Its perfection were not achieved in a day; but it "broadened down from precedent to precedent." We have the privileges which are the birth-right today of every subject in this country, because in the past the individual's rights were respected. The reason that freedom developed in this Empire as it did in no other place on the face of the earth was because before an English Judge administering English law every man was equal; whether he was rich or poor his rights were inviolable; his interests were safeguarded. If the King himself tried to imprison a subject without legal justification a British Judge stepped in and discharged that man by a writ of Habeas Corpus!

ARE WE IN THIS PROVINCE PREPARED TO ABANDON ALL THESE RIGHTS WHICH WERE SO HARDLY WON? BY ETERNAL VIGILANCE ALONE IS LIBERTY PRESERVED. ARE WE GOING TO DELIVER UP OUR LIBERTY INTO THE HANDS OF A BAND OF SCHEMING ADVENTURERS, WHO ARE WITHOUT CONSCIENCE, WHO ARE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE, WHO ARE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE, WHO ARE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE EVERY INTEREST OF THE SUBJECT TO THEIR OWN BASE AND SORDID DESIGNS? THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH THE CROCKETT LIBEL CASE PUTS UP TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE.

On that information the facts were absolutely plain. There was no dispute. There was no contradiction. A serious crime had been committed by the publication in the Gleaner newspaper of defamatory matter about a private citizen. Crockett was the man whom the public did and does recognize as the editor of that paper, and responsible for its utterances. The public believes and still believes that Crockett wrote that article. Crockett was the man who was carrying on the controversy with McLellan; Crockett was the man to whom the mutilated telephone conversation was reported by THE BLUNDERING McLEOD; Crockett was the man who told R. B. Hanson to say nothing about the matter until after the

paper was published; Crockett was the man who read the article to the same BLUNDERING McLEOD over the telephone about four o'clock in the afternoon—evidently for a final reference to and approval by this representative of His Majesty; before he sent the libel broadcast on the Country. And finally when a man named Coulthard was called as a witness—he who styled himself editor-in-chief of the Gleaner, he from whom was dragged the most damaging admission that ever fell from the lips of a newspaper man; he who swore he published the libelous article without knowing who wrote it or where it came from or whether it was true or false—this man who examined the manuscript of the article, but who was trying in every way to shield his principal, this man although he was absolutely sure that it was not in the hand writing of Black and the other regular contributors, admitted that there was a doubt whether it was in Crockett's handwriting or not. But in face of all this Crockett has not only escaped the criminal's cell, but he has escaped being placed on trial.

The commission of the crime was so brazen and foolhardy even for this man with the "colossal nerve" that many people thought that Crockett must have been insane; but they now recognize that he knew the protection he had. He knew he had the Hazen Government implicated in the crime through the BLUNDERING SOLICITOR-GENERAL, and he knew that they would not dare to prosecute him.

Surely it was a unique occurrence in the history of this Province when the Premier would write to one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution, a letter demanding a reply to some statements which he was said to have made about a case then before the Court. But in this case the public were given the letter of the Attorney-General to the Registrar of Probates and Mr. Fraser's reply thereto through the columns of the paper of that defendant. That fact alone suggests a volume of inquiry. If the Attorney-General is so closely connected with the defendant's paper as to give these letters for publication, and so ready in the writing of letters, the question naturally arises did the Attorney-General write a letter to the magistrate hearing the case as well.

For the last two years or so the public has become accustomed to the story of criminal after criminal escaping the punishment of their misdeeds in this Province, through the blundering or incompetence of one of the representatives of the Crown; but few people heretofore have paid attention to the occasional whisper of something worse than blunder and incompetence in connection with these failures; but here is a case where a BLUNDERING member of the Government is consulted in the very preparation for the commission of the crime.

HOW LONG WOULD THAT MEMBER BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN PUBLIC LIFE IN ENGLAND? HOW LONG ARE THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE GOING TO SUFFER IT?

PROVINCIAL FINANCES

The Hazen government in compliance with the law, publishes in the Royal Gazette this week a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the province for the fiscal year ending October 31st. It reveals an astounding condition of affairs in connection with our provincial finances, and must come as a rude shock to those who have all along been laboring under the delusion that there is an "economical" government in power in New Brunswick. The ordinary revenue for the year was \$1,324,440.05, the largest in the history of the province, and the ordinary expenditure was \$1,317,876.42, which is also the largest in the history of the province. The Provincial Secretary claims a surplus on the year's operations of \$6,563.63, but as he started the year with a balance of \$114,971.75 the deficit for the twelve months according to his own statement, was in reality \$108,408.12. This is the condition of affairs brought about by a government, which entered into a solemn pledge to "keep the ordinary expenditure within the income."

Economy—how farcical is the word as applied to the administration of provincial affairs by the bungling and incompetent Hazen government.

The Hazen government promised to save people hundreds of thousands of dollars in the price of school books. Last year, according to a statement

PREMIER BOTHA'S MESSAGE TO THE CANADIANS

(Toronto Globe)

Cape Town, Dec. 22.

The Globe, Toronto, Canada:

In response to your cablegram the Government of South Africa most gladly send to the people of Canada our heartiest compliments of the season. The Union of South Africa looks upon the Dominion of Canada as an elder brother, whose example it desires to follow. May Canada and the Union always be found on the same side in the interests of the Empire, and may Canada enjoy continued and increasing prosperity be our sincere wish.

BOTHA.

The foregoing is the text of a message from the Right Honorable Louis Botha received by The Globe on Thursday—The General of Boer and fame the first Prime Minister of the South African Commonwealth. Where once Boer and Briton engaged in deadly conflict, both are now striving for the upbuilding of a new nation destined to become a great force in a world-encircling Empire. Within the past few weeks his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught opened the first parliament of the new South Africa, and a great gathering of those who eleven years ago were doing their best to kill or drive each other out of the country witnessed the ceremony. Perhaps in all history there is no greater illustration than this of the supreme power over men of the message, "On earth peace, good-will toward men," that resounded above the Plains of Bethlehem on the first Christmas morning.

At Christmas time in 1899 there were mourning and sorrow throughout the British Empire; the gay spirit of the holiday season was completely overcast by the shadow of the series of reverses that had attended the British forces in South Africa. In the short period from

December 10 to 16—to go down in the history of the war as "the black week"—news was received that the Boers inflicted three disastrous defeats on separated British forces. General Gatacre, who commanded the smallest of these forces, was crushingly defeated in attempting a night surprise at Stormburg; Lord Methuen was the next victim if Boer prowess at Magerfontein, where General Wauchope was killed and the Highland brigade suffered terrible losses, also in a night attack on the Boers; and to fill the cup of bitterness to the brim for the British Empire General Buller was thrown back at the Tugela River, losing heavily in men and guns.

During this period Louis Botha was coming to the front among the Boer leaders. There are many who think that had he then been given supreme command of the Boers, which at this period was vested in General Joubert, the British would have had to reconquer Natal and Cape Colony from the seacoast out. Botha's turn came after Joubert's death, when he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Boer forces, and to the end of organized resistance against overwhelming British forces he conducted his campaign with skill and military ability. When peace was declared Louis Botha threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of reconstruction. His one desire in life, he has declared many times since, is to see a united South Africa, Briton and Boer working together in harmony to build up a great nation within the British Empire. As a soldier he ever commanded the respect of "the enemy;" as a statesman he is showing a tolerance, wisdom and sagacity that mean much for the nation whose head he is. Canada could have no more pleasing Christmas greeting than the hearty words of the man who sends a message from the youngest of the overseas Dominions to the eldest.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

(Continued from page 8)

least might have remembered Providence.

The inspector was too thin skinned. He thought that he (Rutter) was after his job, whenever he offered suggestions. He was not after the job of fire inspector, nor did he want it. He would say, however, that it would be better if the offices of Chief of the Fire Department and Fire Inspector should be combined.

J. D. BLACK.

Mr. J. D. Black, reporter for The Gleaner, was also heard. He could not say that Chief Rutter used the words "fire trap." His remarks gave him (Black) that impression, however.

In reply to Ald. Mitchell, Chief Rutter said that to make public a statement to the effect that a building was dangerous was proper. He had done so before. Such a course of action should make the public more careful. He had made remarks the same morning concerning the dangerous condition of the Fredericton Steam Laundry, where a quantity of straw in the cellar had been burned.

ALD. WALKER.

Ald. Walker, chairman of the Fire Committee, said that he considered the statement published concerning the McMurray building had been most unfair, as it had given the public the impression that the entire building was a fire trap. He gave a testimonial in order to place Mr. McMurray in a proper position before the public.

Dr. C. R. Fletcher of New York, will return home this evening after a visit to relatives.

Mr. Wm. A. McGinley, of St. John, is at the Barker House.

published in the Royal Gazette, the province expended for school books the sum of \$23,157.40, and received in return for the same \$17,162.92—a difference of \$5,994.48. Where does the saving come in?

NEW YORK YACHTSMAN

BODY RECOVERED

Key West, Fla., Dec. 27.—The body of Capt. Stewart Bennett, of New York, magazine writer and owner of the yacht Phra was found today near the western banks. His wife and her man Parker one of the men on the yacht also believed to have been drowned.

MARYSVILLE TOPICS

Dec. 28.—Mrs. Alex. Gibson entertained a few friends at afternoon tea on Tuesday. A very sociable time was spent. Mrs. Good of Woodstock, and Miss Mary Gibson, favored the guests with vocal solos, which were very much enjoyed. Mrs. John Christie of Campbellton, played a piano selection in her usual pleasing manner. Dainty refreshments were served at the tea hour. The following guests were present: Mrs. J. C. Berrie, Mrs. W. T. Day, Mrs. Charlton Berrie and Mrs. Good of Woodstock, Mr. and Mrs. L. Thorne of St. John, Miss Nellie Tiltonson, of London, Eng., Mrs. E. Miles Merritt, Mrs. J. Christie of Campbellton, and Miss Merritt.

Mr. John Gibson, Jr., who has been visiting his home, will leave for St. John on Wednesday.

A very pleasant sociable was given in Orange Hall by the teachers and scholars of the Methodist Sabbath School. Great credit is due Mrs. Bayard Fisher, Miss Mary Gibson, Miss M. Titus, Miss F. Bird, Dr. Fisher and others for their part in instructing the children.

Following is a short programme which was carried out:

Opening address by the Sunday School Superintendent, Dr. Fisher.

Chorus by the Sunday School—"The New Born King."

Recitation—Master Tapley Gibson.

Fairy Chorus—Ten little girls.

Recitation—Fred Arnold.

Trio—Misses Libby, A. Doherty and N. Brewer.

Recitation—"Christmas Candles."

Ten little girls.

Recitation—Ruby Cain.

Dolls' Chorus by twelve girls.

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Dec. 27, 1910

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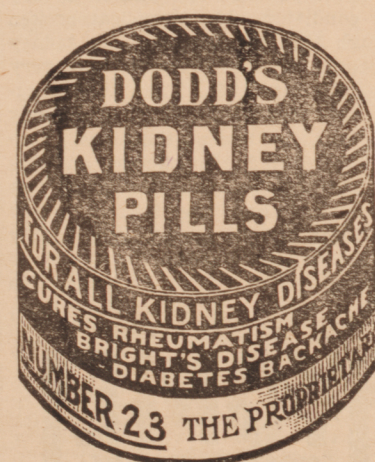
is about over the rush of installing Furnaces &c., and are in excellent shape to undertake any work in the line of

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If there are any of your friends you have forgotten at Xmas, make them a New Year's Gift, it will be just as much appreciated.

OAK HALL

C. H. THOMAS & CO.
F'ton's Greatest Clothing House.

Christmas dialogue by boys and girls.

Chorus—By Sunday School. Address by Rev. J. C. Berrie after which a collection was taken up.

There were two Christmas trees off of which bags of candy were distributed among the children. Coffee and cake were also served. Mrs. Fisher and Miss Mary Gibson were the accompanists. Among those who gave their valuable assistance were Mrs. Harry Gibson and Mrs. Freeman Libbey, assisted by the young ladies of the Sunday School.

Mrs. Good leaves on Wednesday evening for her home in Woodstock, accompanied by her cousin, Miss Tiltonson, of England.

Mr. and Mrs. Leverett Thorne of St. John, who have been the guests of Rev. J. C. and Mrs. Berrie during the Christmas season, left for their home on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Charlton Berrie, of Woodstock who has been a guest at the Methodist parsonage, went to St. John on Tuesday evening.

Miss Kathleen Gibson of Fredericton, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson.