

## The Daily Mail

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### THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND CAMPBELLTON

What is going to be done with regard to Campbellton? The despatches from that ill-fated place tell a story of privation and suffering which is simply deplorable. One is accustomed to hear and read about the privations and want which fall to the lot of pioneers and explorers in unknown lands and while a certain amount of admiration may be accorded them for the endurance exhibited, the experiences they are called upon to undergo are as often as not of their own seeking. But when it comes down to a lot of helpless women and children placed in the position in which they now find themselves through no fault of their own, exposed to the elements day and night sodden ground to sleep on, and sickness threatening on every hand, it is getting about time that somebody woke up and made some sort of effort to deal with the situation.

The ready response which has been made by other towns and cities in the province to the appeal of the afflicted one for help while it has done some little toward mitigating the sufferings caused by the fire; has been only temporary and it is not to be expected that such aid can be indefinitely continued. Nor is there any reason why it should.

What is the provincial government doing in the matter? A fortnight ago it voted \$2000 to the relief fund and some of its members made some sympathetic speeches to the stricken ones and there it has been left. It is up to Mr. Hazen and his colleagues to act and act promptly. There is no appropriation made for the matter it is true and we certainly should not like to advise them to violate the provisions of the much vaunted audit act and make a grant without legislative sanction. Such a course as that is only excusable in cases of extreme emergency such as the purchase of Kentucky race horses, or an important matter of that kind, and not to such a case as that afforded by the disaster at Campbellton, with regard to which, judging from appearances, the government seems to think any time will do.

It is said that Nero fiddled while Rome burned—Mr. Hazen seems to be "fiddling about" also over the ruins of Campbellton.

### THE C. P. R. AND THE INTERESTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

A London cable announces the formal opening by Lord Strathcona yesterday of the new office which the government of this province has taken in that city. That there was need of a change in the location of the office of New Brunswick, will be conceded by all those who hitherto on their visits to Great Britain have attempted to find the provincial representative in London. Even now the site chosen is not all that it might be in the interest of publicity, though it is far away ahead of all previous offices. Probably it is the best that could be got for the money, whatever it might be, that the provincial government was prepared to pay by way of rent; but a government which sends a man to England and expects him to fittingly represent the province on the miserable and paltry sum of fifteen hundred dollars a year, the salary of a responsible clerk, cannot be expected to be overly generous in the matter of office rent.

The object of opening the new offices is the better to bring before the British public the advantages of New Brunswick as a place for settlement, and it has been one of the boasts of this government that the

C. P. R. has afforded and is affording the provincial representative in London a vast amount of valuable assistance. But let no one think that such a great corporation as the C. P. R. in doing so has acted in a perfectly disinterested manner and solely in the interests of this province. The C. P. R. is no mutual benefit society, and the more settlers it can induce to come to New Brunswick, the more there will be to go West later on.

Already in the columns of the St. John Standard there is the announcement of the annual harvest excursions, and the sincerely expressed hope that the young men of the Maritime Provinces will take advantage of the chance of a "cheap vacation" by going out to help the western farmers and leave the eastern ones to look after their own crops as best they can. So far from being a help, the C. P. R. is one of the greatest hindrances to colonization New Brunswick has to contend with.

### THE GREATER LOSS

The Vancouver News Advertiser remarks that while the sensational account which comes from New Brunswick of the complete destruction by fire of a town of five thousand inhabitants with a number of important industries and railway properties, naturally awakens interest and excites sympathy, as a matter of fact, the property loss and the disaster generally is far less serious than the effect of certain forest fires which are passed by as comparatively trifling incidents. In a few years Campbellton will be rebuilt. The people will have new homes and be employed in other mills replacing the old establishments. But the land swept by forest fires will remain a scene of desolation. Much of it will never bear another crop of trees or anything else. No human being not even an animal, will find a home or sustenance there. Rain and wind will have swept from the rocks all the soil that the fire has left and a region which might have been a source of profit, a means of subsistence, a protection to the water supply, and a pleasant prospect, will remain a barren tract and a blenish to the landscape. This is a tragedy far worse than the destruction of a few hundred buildings in a town. Yet while we see the people taking precautions lest the forest fires should spread to the towns they do not always seem so eager to prevent the clearing fires from spreading to the forest.

### MAINE NO LONGER PINE TREE STATE

Skowhegan, Me., July 25—Pine which was at one time one of Maine's greatest commodities is now reduced to a small amount. Lumbermen are free to say it, and manufacturers are obliged to admit it.

At a recent meeting of the Skowhegan Board of Trade a committee reported that a local manufacturer of sashes and blinds would enlarge his plant if it were not so difficult to obtain pine to meet the demands of his business. The Board of Trade is now trying to help the manufacturer but of his difficulty by discovering some source of pine supply.

This incident shows how nearly pine less is the Pine Tree State.

It was not so very many years back that thousands of big pine logs were floating down the Kennebec River every summer and the supply was considered practically inexhaustible.

Pine was then regarded as the one kind of lumber of commercial importance. The clear pine only was utilized and the rest went to the refuse pile to be burned. Rapidly the product became scarcer and scarcer, and economy was practiced in the manufacture of pine lumber. Now one mill engaged in a business which calls for only small sticks of finished pine and located in a section where its demand should be supplied with ease experiences much difficulty in obtaining sufficient lumber to make its sashes and blinds.

Today other kinds of lumber which a score of years ago were regarded as of secondary importance take first place in the market owing to the scarcity of pine, selling at a much higher price than pine brought then.

Maine is the pineless State. If some action is not speedily taken to protect and conserve our forests it will soon be the spruceless State, the hemlockless State, the firless State—the Lumberless State. To place lumber on the free list is the most important step to be taken. To encourage the use of other materials such as concrete is another step. To advise and encourage reforestation is another important step. The giant pines are gone and it would take more than the span of one lifetime to replace them.

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## PROMPT ACTION NEEDED IF CAMPBELLTON IS TO BE SAVED

Tremendous Privation Now Being Suffered by the People, Especially the Women and Children—The Rain Sodden Condition of the Ground Makes Things Almost Unbearable—Immediate and Substantial Help is Essential in Order to Avoid an Even Worse Calamity Than Has Already Happened.

Campbellton, N. B., July 25—Discouraged and sick at heart, the almost abandoned people of stricken Campbellton reclined in water soaked tents tonight wondering what the morrow will bring forth. Truly no community ever stood in need of more assistance than does this unfortunate people.

The misery they endured today as the rain fell in torrents and the winds blew a hurricane, are simply indescribable. Mothers ridding themselves of their inner garments and wrapping them around the shivering bodies of their children; tiny boys and girls huddling around smouldering camp fires with clothes dripping wet, were but a few of the pitiable sights to be witnessed in the tented city at the foot of Patterson's Hill.

The food supply is running short, and unless more donations are received by tomorrow night the relief committee will have to draw on their own finances, which are greatly needed for other purposes. Complaints of sickness brought on by colds are daily being heard, and it is feared that, although they are not of a very serious nature, they soon will be.

In the midst of all their misfortune, however, the people are not idle. Temporary structures of which there are now nearly 200 under construction are being rapidly built. From early morning until dark nothing but the dull thud of the hammer and the clashing of boards can be heard echoing throughout the town. Everyone is working and clinging on, feeling almost certain that the provincial and Dominion governments are going to come to their assistance. Should these governments decide otherwise, nothing is more absolutely certain, as Judge McLatchy, said today, than that Campbellton will be no more.

Business on a small scale is being conducted here by the local merchants who have placed tents or erected temporary shacks near the site of their old premises. Among the goods offered for sale are groceries, hardware, clothing, boots and shoes, candies, fruit and ice cream. It is on a rare occasion when the latter is called for, however, as not even those who were formerly worth thousands, have now the wherewith to purchase them.

### ONCE WEALTHY IN BREAD LINE

The fire was a great leveller, as there is now none rich or comfortable but all are poor. Those who formerly

lived in what almost could be called mansions, can be seen every morning standing at the relief tents mingling with paupers, all waiting for their daily rations. Up in the tented city, too, side by side with nothing but canvas over their heads, the different classes are sharing an equal fate. Among those living in the tents sharing every inconvenience is Judge Matheson and his wife. Since the first day of the conflagration Magistrate Matheson besides contenting himself with this terrible lot, has also worked hard and zealously looking after the needs of the people.

The relief station presented a wild scene this evening when the word was given out that a carload of mattresses had arrived. Hundreds flocked to this particular spot begging the committee to let them have one. As there was not a sufficient number on hand to meet the demands, close discrimination had to be used, and although the committee did as they thought right, some of the disappointed ones thought otherwise, and they did not refrain from expressing their feelings. The carload of mattresses received this evening brings the number on hand up to 260, which goes to show that there are still more than a thousand people who have to sleep on spruce boughs or dampened blankets.

### CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS \$40,000

The financial aid which is the one thing needed in Campbellton at present, is coming in very slowly. A few subscriptions including one of \$800 from the County of York were received today, bringing the total amount on hand up to \$40,273.

The housing problem is the most talked of here at present. Suffering from the effects of the cold and dreary weather that is prevailing here at present the people are saying: "What will we do when the winter comes?" This is the problem, too, which is staring the relief committee in the face who, unless considerable more funds are sent in, will never be able to grapple with it.

Several of the local merchants are complaining about the way outside firms are coming in and robbing them of their trade. Yesterday there was an agent here from a prominent outside clothing establishment taking orders and measures for clothes, while the local tailors had to look on and see the money go out of the town that was theirs by right.

July 6, 1910

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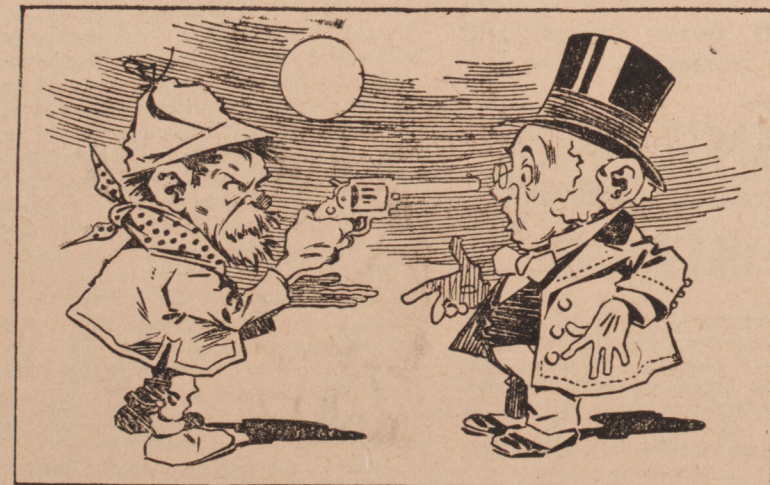
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