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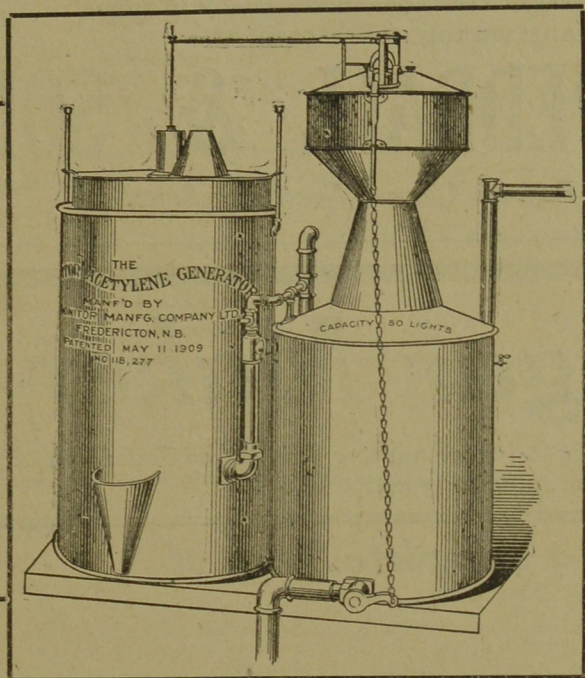
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A. A. BELMORE

HON. JOHN MORRISSY

(Continued from page two.)

and consistent throughout his entire political career. He had stood by Stockton when his co-religionists had refused to go into his house because they said he had been a supporter of Stockton who was not a fit person for members of their congregation to associate with and as long as Premier Hazen carried on the affairs of the Province as at present so long would he support him and his administration. He wanted to impress this on the hon. gentleman opposite who took every opportunity that offered to read him out of the liberal party. The gall and impertinence of that was amazing. The same hon. gentleman had visited Northumberland county and had tried to get some body to offer as a candidate against him in one election when he was running as a liberal in Federal politics.

Mr. Copp.—Who was it?
Hon. Mr. Morrissey.—It was Mr. Emerson and the hon. gentleman opposite who asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said that he did not take his politics like a dog takes a bone off the streets and he owed it to himself as a man and not to either political party that he was in the position he occupies today. The people who sent him here as their representative were the ones to whom he would have to answer for his conduct and he was perfectly willing to do that at any time and so long as he was in charge of the Public Works Dept. so long would he make himself worthy of the leader who he was privileged to follow.

Mr. Bentley said that he wondered if the Chief commissioner thought he was the only liberal in the province. When the members of the opposition came to the house and asked a civil question they had a right to get a civil answer; but it seemed wrong in the eyes of the hon. gentleman opposite for anybody from the opposition side of the house to even ask a question. He thought, however, that Mr. Morrissey as a liberal might have excused himself and not come down to St. John County to try and defeat him. He was surprised at the explanation of the commissioner of public works as to why bridges had not been built by tender instead of by days work. There were structural superintendents on the ground who could very well arrange for work being done by tender. The expenditure on bridges had been too large and money had been wasted through the day's work system that could have been saved under the tender system. He had made an enquiry regarding some work done in the vicinity of Spruce Lake St. John Co. at the time of the by-election but he had received no information in reply and had received a stereotyped answer to the effect that section 84 of the Highway Act did not refer to what he enquired about.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said that a reply to the Hon. gentleman's enquiry had been made by the Department in what was felt to be a proper manner. If the hon. gentleman came to the department he would allow him to look over all the accounts.

Mr. Lowell said that the chief commissioner put himself up as Paul the Apostle but would he say that he did not authorize Charles Morrison to spend three hundred dollars in St. John County during the recent by-election as a special commissioner, and apart from the Highway Board. This account had been covered up and it would go to show the people of the province how the accounts could be smuggled out of sight under the new Highway Act.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said that the hon. gentleman's statement was not true. He would offer the services of his staff of officials to assist the hon. gentleman in getting the information desired but if the account was not in his office he could not be expected to manufacture one.

Mr. Lowell said that he and his colleague from St. John county wanted to know where that account had gone to. They knew it had been paid and it was not on the pages of the Public Works Dept. Report where the chief commissioners answers to an enquiry said it would be found. They were not going to allow the hon. gentleman opposite to bully them.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey.—That may be like the Negro head breakwater.

Mr. Lowell said that he and his colleague were bound to have an answer. They were here as the representatives of the people and they would talk until they found it out.

Mr. Bentley said that the premier had stated that it was only under section 84 of the highway act that any money outside of that spent by the highway board would be expended. He wanted to know if the work regarding which they had been enquiring in St. John county was exempted under the act.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the hon. gentlemen opposite were entitled to the fullest information, and he had always felt that since he held his present position the hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House had always been given the information on any matter. The chief commissioner said that if the hon. gentlemen would come to his department, the staff would be placed at his disposal in order to assist them to obtain any information which might be available and which might be desired. He remembered there was an expenditure on the road in the vicinity of Spruce Lake. He never saw the accounts,

but he understood they amounted to be something like \$200. Reference had been made to the fact that a road machine had been seen in Fairville, on election day and it was alleged that it had been taken there and driven about for political purposes. The facts were that the highway board in the parish of Musquash had purchased a machine, and it happened to arrive in Fairville that day, and, of course, had been taken through the village when being delivered to Musquash.

Mr. Lowell said that the road machine had since laid alongside the road at Musquash, and was rotting away and hadn't been used to strike one tap of work.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that he was aware that the hon. gentleman had made some such statement in the House a few days ago, and that Warden Dean, who was a member of the highway board of Musquash, had said that that statement was absolutely untrue. The road machine, moreover, had not been bought by the province, but was purchased by the highway board of the parish of Musquash, and was paid for by the taxes of the people of Musquash along with what assistance had been granted by the provincial public works department.

Mr. Lowell said that the premier had told the voters that the road machine had been bought by the government for the people.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that he had never made any such statements, nor anything that could be constituted as having such a meaning. He did not make it a practice of going about the country, making untrue statements.

Mr. Lowell said he would say on his own responsibility as a member of the House, that the road machine in question had been allowed to lie along the roadside at Musquash, that it was not covered up and it was there a week ago.

Mr. Woods asked if he would state that the machine had been driven up and down through Fairville on election day to influence the voters.

Mr. Lowell said that perhaps Mr. Woods was responsible for what had been done.

Mr. Lowell stated that the premier had seen the road machine being driven up and down the road through Fairville.

Mr. Hazen said that was untrue.

Mr. Lowell said that the premier had either seen it or was dodging it.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the hon. member for St. John should have some regard for the decency and the dignity of the House.

Mr. Lowell said that he had been told that the premier saw it.

Hon. Mr. Hazen.—Now the hon. gentleman says that he was told that I saw it, while before he stated positively that I did see it. The hon. gentleman should adhere to the facts.

Mr. Woods said that he was not in Fairville while the election was in progress. He was there that night after the poll closed.

Mr. Lowell said that the member for Queens would not deny that he had been there during the campaign.

Mr. Woods said that the hon. gentleman from St. John county had stated to him personally that he knew that the road machine was not in Fairville that day for political purposes but that it had to be taken up to the blacksmith shop and, of course, had to be taken down again.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that the affair took place at election time, and it had a most peculiar flavor, to say the least.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the cause for all the trouble had been through the official of the public works department, who prepared the answer to enquiry, looking up the wrong copy of the act. He had taken the pamphlet containing the act of 1908, consolidated with the amendments of 1909, and section 84 (a) of that pamphlet which had been distributed through the province, referred to wooden bridges and not to roads.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that about the only time he had heard graft mentioned in the House was when the word was brought up by the chief commissioner of public works. He did not accuse the chief commissioner or any of his officials of graft, but he had said that the failure to put up public works at tender as this government had promised when in opposition, was entailing large losses of the provincial monies. He had sent a list of three bridges to the chief commissioner in Albert county, which had been built by day's work, and which, in the opinion of W. J. McKenzie, an experienced bridge builder, of Alma, Albert county, had cost more than they should have cost if tenders had been called for.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey.—If the hon. gentleman will make a charge, I will investigate it fully.

Mr. Robinson said that he did not assert there was any wrong doing. Mr. Hoare the structural superintendent in Albert County, used to be a Liberal but was not one now. The way that the bridges had been built was costing too much and he had not laid a charge against Mr. Hoare or any other official, but what he had said was to charge that the government's administration had resulted in wasteful extravagance in handling the public monies for building bridges. He made the charge against the government, not against officials, and the legislature was the proper place to make it. He quoted from the letter written to him by Mr. W. J. McKenzie in which the latter named three bridges which had in his opinion cost much more under the day's

work system than they would have if put up to public tender. The opposition were not there for the purpose of pleasing the chief commissioner, but they were there as representatives of the people and did not propose to sit down and be bluffed.

SOME HOT SHOT

Mr. Copp said that the cultured language in which the chief commissioner had referred to him made him feel that he should at least say something, and he would ask the House if he had ever used such uncouth language in the ten years that he had been a member of the House or if he had ever been guilty of gutter snipe politics. He had been told that he was a whippersnapper. The chief commissioner had brought the proceedings below the dignity of the House, below the rules of parliamentary procedure and on a level with a bar-room brawl on the North Shore.

Mr. Morrissey said that the language that had been used by him had been justified. Mr. Copp had referred to him as belonging to the Italian Mafia.

Mr. Copp said he had never used such a word and he did not know what it meant and if the chief commissioner could prove that he had used such a word in this House he would resign. He had always endeavored to treat the chief commissioner with respect and had never said that the chief commissioner was dishonest but he had said that the officials under the chief commissioner were extravagant and probably without his knowledge. What stand the chief commissioner had taken with his co-religionists some years ago was of no interest in this connection. The chief commissioner had stated what was untrue when he said that he (Copp) had gone to Northumberland in 1904 and had tried to get a candidate to come out against Hon. Mr. Morrissey, when he was running as a Liberal candidate. The only person with whom he had discussed the political standing of the chief commissioner in 1904 was Mr. Emmerson, and he told him that he believed that Hon. Mr. Morrissey was the strongest candidate in Northumberland. When the Hon. Mr. Morrissey had charged the old government with stealing stumps and a demand had been made that he formulate charges, he slunk out of the door of the House and didn't return again that session.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the member for Westmorland stated what was not true. Mr. Morrissey had not slunk out of the House. Instead of going out of the House he had stayed and voted for the amendment that he (Hazen) had made.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey said that Mr. Copp had voted on that occasion to put him out of the House.

Mr. Copp denied this and said he wasn't going to read Mr. Morrissey out of the Liberal party, that he did not care whether he was out or in. That he had used all members of the House honestly and truthfully and he had never said a disrespectful or unkind word before or behind their backs.

Mr. Byrne on the item of \$14,000 for steam navigation said that he trusted that the grant to the line of steamers running from the mainland in Gloucester county to Miscou Island would receive the proportion of the grant to which it was entitled. The exports of that Island amounted to a quarter of a million dollars and the steamboat company gave transportation facilities that it could not otherwise have. A statement of receipts and expenditure of the company had been filed with the government in accordance with the provisions of the act and while the grant had been reduced he felt that he must call the attention of the government to this matter in his capacity as a representative of Gloucester, and he hoped that not only would the provincial secretary say that one thousand dollars would be granted again, but that the government would make the grant \$1500 as before.

Hon. Mr. Flemming said that a committee of the executive council, composed by the chief commissioner, Hon. Dr. Landry and himself had heard representatives of the company yesterday and they had showed the importance of the service given by the company and realized its necessity. There had as yet been no apportionment of the grant but there was no disposition to cut off the company referred to and the matter brought up by the member for Gloucester would receive not only favorable but sympathetic consideration.

Hon. Mr. Flemming on the item of \$15,000 for legislative buildings and offices said that a slight increase had been necessary owing to the installation of electric lighting in the legislative building and improvements in the other buildings.

Hon. Dr. Landry said that in answer to Mr. Sweeney's enquiry of yesterday he had found that the insurance on the St. John Exhibition Buildings was all in tariff companies but they were special risks and under the act could only be for one year.

The items of supply were all agreed to and reported to the House and supply was made the order of the day for next Thursday.

Mr. Byrne gave notice of enquiry regarding expenditures on bridges.

Hon. Dr. Landry presented the report on agriculture for 1909.

The House adjourned at 8 p. m. until Monday.

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