

The Daily Mail

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A TRADE FALLACY

Once more one may read in Conservative newspapers that because wheat prices have recently been higher in Canada than in the United States, it is therefore clear that the free entry of the Canadian product to the American market would be of no benefit to the farmers of the dominion. This same argument has made its appearance at this session of each year since the defeat of the reciprocity agreement, and it is of no more soundness today than on other occasions.

For a couple of months each year wheat prices are higher in Canada than in the United States. Those are the months in which the Canadian grain grower has no wheat to sell. For the remaining nine or ten months of the year American prices rule generally higher than those prevailing on this side of the line. It is when the Canadian grower is in a position to bargain for the sale of his crop that the American prices are best. No one but editorial writers on trade restrictionist paper can figure out any benefit to the Canadian farmer from high prices prevailing on the Canadian side of the boundary when he has no wheat to sell. And none but milling companies and railway corporations, which profit from the present restriction of the selling opportunities of Canadian grain growers, and the politicians and newspapers which do the will of those special interests, can see anything save advantage to the grain growers in obtaining for them the opportunity of duty-free access to a third market. On this policy of free wheat the Liberals have taken their stand; Premier Borden and his colleagues continue steadfast in loyalty to the wish of the millers and railway magnates and in opposition to the desires of the grain growers.

The North Shore Leader, organ of Hon. John Morrissey, publishes with great glee the following from The New Freeman:

"Does Morrissey know about this?" was the question addressed to Mr. W. H. Berry by a North Shore lumberman, who contributed to the corruption fund. "No, and I don't want him to know it." A splendid tribute indeed, to the high-mindedness and personal integrity of 'Honest John.' We want more John Morrisseys in the public life of this country if we would wish to be relieved of additional taxation to defray the expenses of royal commissioners." Mr. Morrissey's colleagues in the Flemming government give him no credit for his high-mindedness and personal integrity. Instead of there being more John Morrisseys in the public life of the country there will be one less of members of Flemming government have their way. Honest John is scheduled to walk the plank.

Col. McLeod, M.P., who is alleged to have sold a Valley Railway contract to Mr. John S. Scott for \$1500 was a member of the Flemming government up to October last, when he was transferred to Ottawa for quarreling with his colleagues over the division of the spoils.

The St. John Globe continues to call for Flemming's resignation. The boodle organs of the party declare that Flemming has done nothing wrong. Under the circumstances it is more than probable that Flemming will remain on the job until he scuttles the ship.

If the members of the Flemming government did not know of the existence of the boodle fund, they should at their next meeting tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Carvell for putting them wise to it.

Mr. Pinder got his bumps a few weeks ago. Mr. H. P. McLeod is now getting his. The next bump McLeod gets will land him into political oblivion.

Since the Dugal enquiry began a Mr. T. J. Carter and his inseparable pipe have twice adorned the pages of the Standard.

SCOTT'S DAMAGING EVIDENCE
BEFORE ROYAL COMMISSION

(Continued From Page 1.)

charge is that I used my power as a member of the government improperly and that is the only basis upon which you can approach the charge. This man Scott had no contract with the government of which I was a member. The government dealt only with the St. John and Quebec Railway Company, who sub-let to these large contractors, and the government did not even know the sub-contractors.

Mr. Carvell—Did you get the money?

Mr. McLeod—That is not a pertinent question at this stage of the performance. I will tell everything fearlessly in good time. If you are going to go into private transactions between lawyer and client you will have to go down the line to every Italian ditch-digger and investigate his private affairs. I am pointing out these things not because I have anything to fear but because I feel that my transaction is perfectly legitimate and because I cannot see that it is in the public interest.

Mr. Guthrie read an order-in-council to show that the Quebec and St. John Railway Company is the contractor with the government.

The Chairman—Do you maintain that we are limited to inquiring whether sums were paid to secure this contract?

Mr. Guthrie—Yes.

Mr. Carvell argued that the sub-contractors had been recognized by the government, as was shown by the provisions for their payment, and that the matter to be settled was whether any of these contractors had to pay money to Mr. McLeod to secure his contract.

Mr. Fowler—Surely no one would argue that "under" could mean anything else but "with."

This plea elicited much laughter.

Mr. Carvell asked the witness to produce his first contract with the Hibbards and this was offered in evidence. Mr. Carter objected, but it was accepted. Mr. Carvell read the document, which was with the Quebec Construction Company, under which name the second contract was made.

After discussion, lasting about an hour, the documents were admitted.

"A CONSIDERATION."

Q.—What was your conversation with Mr. McLeod on May 30?

A.—I told him I did not think this was a manly or honorable way of doing business. He told us we could get part of the work on the upper end and that we could get better prices than the other people. He said he thought that he could get it at 26 cents and said that if he could there ought to be a consideration. I asked what the consideration would be and he mentioned \$100 a mile.

"We went out, met James Ke'ly and Wesley Kitchen and went to the office of the railway company to look over the profiles of the section for ten miles below Woodstock."

The witness then read a memorandum of the estimate of work on that section.

Q.—Were you to take any other work besides those ten miles?

A.—Yes, about thirteen miles all together.

Q.—Did you get the estimate of

quantities for the other three miles?

A.—Yes, these were then submitted, giving, with the others, a total of about 300,000 cubic yards of material to be removed, of which 36,000 to 40,000 yards was solid rock.

Q.—What next?

A.—We saw Mr. McLeod on June 3 and told him we had decided to take the work and that the price was satisfactory.

Q.—Did he tell you anything about his power in the matter?

A.—He told us that no contracts could be given without his consent; that he was the man to whom a person must go to get a contract.

Q.—Did he say anything further to you?

A.—We talked generally about the work. We held out for 27 cents and he said we could get it at 26 cents and \$1.10. He promised to try to get 27 cents but if he could get it, he thought we should split it. I said that that would be satisfactory to me. The extra cent would make \$3,000 and half of that would be \$1,500 for him.

"We went down to the Barker House, to see Mr. Hibbard. I told Mr. Hibbard that we would take the work if we could get our price, quoting \$85 an acre for clearing, \$30 for grubbing, \$1.10 per yard for solid rock and 27 cents for other excavation. He smiled and said that was considerably higher than others were getting but we had good friends who wanted to see us used right and he would agree. We arranged to sign a memorandum and did so on Wednesday, June 5.

Q.—Did you go back to Mr. McLeod?

A.—Yes. We told him that we had arranged the contract and told him that as soon as our finances were straightened out we would pay the money. He said that would be all right.

Mr. McLeod protested against the form of questions and Mr. Carvell replied:

"An innocent man does not usually make such objections."

Mr. McLeod protested further.

Q.—Was there any time mentioned when the money was to be paid in?

A.—After the contract was signed on June 5 I met Mr. McLeod and told him that I would see him as soon as the finances were fixed up and promised to send it to him. He said, "I do not want my name mentioned in it" and I said I would send it by express. He suggested that I leave it with Major Massie, manager of the Bank of Montreal, to give it to him and I agreed. On the day after his election I told him that I would be paying soon and he said it was a good time as the election bills would be coming in. On June 27 I sent the \$1,500 by express to Major Massie to be paid to Mr. McLeod.

Q.—Have you a receipt for it?

A.—Yes.

The receipt was put in evidence.

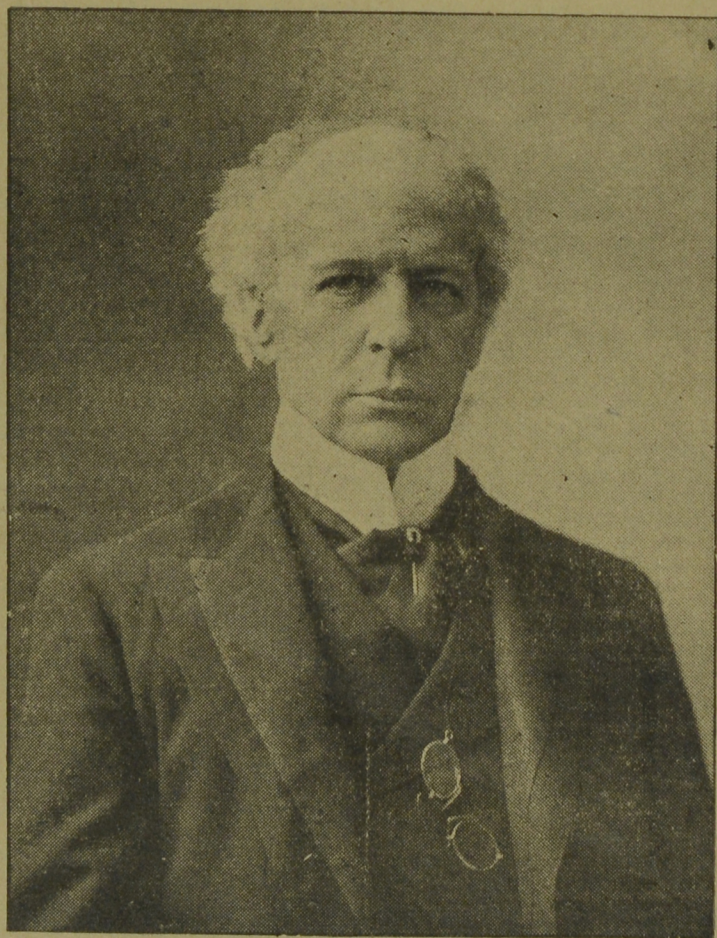
RELIEVED NECESSARY TO PAY.

The witness told of meeting Mr. McLeod later and asking if he had received the money. Mr. McLeod said that he had and that it came at a good time.

Q.—Was it necessary to pay this

(Continued on page five.)

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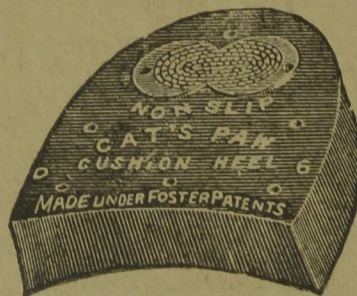
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