

The Daily Mail

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PREMIER'S MYSTERIOUS SILENCE

Mr. Dugal's graft charges against Premier Fleming seem to have taken the premier and the government, as well as their followers in the legislature, completely by surprise. They had not the slightest indication of what was coming until Mr. Dugal had presented his resolution to the House. The premier was in his seat at the time and, as one who was in the gallery described the incident, "he sat like a man receiving the death sentence." On occasions in the past when charges of this nature have been preferred in the legislature, it has always been customary for the premier to make a statement. Premier Fleming however, sat dumb in the face of the most serious charges ever preferred against a public man in New Brunswick. He allowed the charges to go to the country on the following morning and made no attempt to contradict them either by a statement in the House or by means of the press supporting the government.

How different was the conduct of the late Hon. A. G. Blair, during the session of 1890, when Dr. Atkinson, then member for Carleton, gave notice of motion in regard to the Leary charges. Mr. Blair was absent from the chamber when Dr. Atkinson presented his motion, but being notified by a messenger, he hastened to his seat. He rose in his place as soon as the resolution had been read and we find him thus reported in the official debates:

"Hon. Mr. Blair said as the resolution involved a SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST HIMSELF HE DESIRED THAT THERE SHOULD BE THE FULLEST INVESTIGATION. WITH THE CONSENT OF THE HOUSE HE WOULD ASK THAT THE COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED IMMEDIATELY INSTEAD OF WAITING THE USUAL TWO DAYS BEFORE MAKING THE MOTION. IF ANYTHING COULD BE PROVED AGAINST HIS PUBLIC CHARACTER OR AGAINST HIM AS ONE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES, HE WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE COMMENCED WITHOUT A MOMENT'S UNNECESSARY DELAY."

Mr. Hannington, (opposition leader)—"The leader of the government is taking the course that I would adopt under similar circumstances. There will be no objection from this side of the House to an immediate appointment of the committee."

After supper, Hon. Mr. Blair read to the House a resolution which called for the appointment of a committee to conduct an investigation of the charges. After a brief debate it was adopted, the committee was appointed by the speaker and the enquiry was proceeded with.

The same course was open to Hon. Mr. Fleming, but he did not avail himself of it. The charges were made on Monday evening. Mr. Fleming was not in the House when it met on the following afternoon but he was in his place at the evening session and brought down the Valley Railway bill. Still he made no reference to the grave charges involving his personal honor preferred by Mr. Dugal. During Wednesday and Thursday he was indisposed and did not attend the sittings of the House. On Thursday afternoon, when Mr. Dugal formally presented his charges Hon. Mr. Clarke, speaking for the premier, gave them a denial and promised an investigation. He did not move for the appointment of a committee however, but asked that the matter be allowed to stand until after the Easter holidays. Commenting on the remarkable conduct of the premier, The St. John Globe, a paper friendly to the government, has this to say:

"The premier of New Brunswick was in the legislature when a formal charge was preferred against him of fraud in connection with the administration of the crown lands of the province. That he did not then and there repudiate and deny the imputations against his personal honor is as mysterious and as strange as his silence on a later date when his masterful speech in introducing the Valley Railway legislation gave him a second opportunity to make, if he

desired, a statement in his own behalf. THIS STRANGE, THIS UNUSUAL, THIS UNEXPECTED SILENCE AT A TIME WHEN MOST MEN—EITHER INNOCENT OR GUILTY—WOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING, HAS ONLY BEEN MADE MORE MYSTERIOUS BY THE FACT THAT IT WAS LEFT FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, A NEW MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO GIVE VOICE TO THE PREMIER'S ANSWER. What has been said is explicit enough, satisfactory enough in its way, BUT EVERY BODY MUST REGRET THAT IT WAS NOT SAID BY THE ACCUSED HIMSELF AND ON THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY THAT OFFERED. Perhaps it is not altogether fair to say the premier should have spoken earlier than Thursday, as it was not until then that the charge was formally notified before the House, but it is certainly not unfair to say that there was nothing to prevent him speaking earlier, that most men would have done so, and that his failure to do so created surprise and regret and intensified the public anxiety with reference to a matter that cannot be too quickly cleared up and disposed of."

It seems to be quite generally understood about the city that the government had planned to prorogue the House on Thursday. In that case there was to be no investigation of the charges, but a statement was to have been read to the House denying them in toto. But in the language of Scotland's famous bard, "The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley." The radical change in the plan of action was due to the intervention of a higher power than the premier of the province.

Transcript:—Mr. Titus Carter is the buffoon of the provincial legislature. When a charge of wrongdoing is circumstantially made in the legislature which involves not merely the personal honor of Premier Fleming, but the fair fame and name of the province itself, he rises immediately after these very charges which have startled province and midst shrieks of laughter, puts a series of burlesque questions affecting Mr. Dugal. Mr. Titus Carter in so doing showed that he lacked sense enough to appreciate the gravity of the hour and is therefore unfit to discharge the honorable duties of his office. His continued presence is an insult to both the province and the legislature.

The bill to grant another ten thousand dollars a mile to the St. John Valley Railway was before the legislature on Thursday evening and was jammed through the committee stage. It cannot very well be said that the members of the government did not know that the bill was to come up for consideration on that day, yet they permitted more than half of their supporters to depart for their homes before the measure was taken up. The House had the bill before it until after midnight and at one time there were only seventeen members in their seats.

The Valley Railway question is probably the most important that the legislature of New Brunswick ever had to deal with and there never was a time in the history of the province that so many political non-descripts occupied seats in the legislature.

PERSONAL

Road Commissioner H. C. Jewett returned this morning from Shubenacadie, N.S., where he sold his Clyde stallion, Charming Lad, last week.

How to Detect the Alum Baking Powder

"Which are the alum baking powders; how can I avoid them unless they are named?" asks a housekeeper.

Here is one way: take the can of a low-priced powder in your hand and read the ingredient clause upon the back label. The law requires that if the powder contains alum that fact must be there stated. If you find one of the ingredients named alum, or sulphate of aluminum, you have found an *alum baking powder*.

There is another and a better way. You don't have to know the names of the alum powders. Use Royal Baking Powder only; that assures you a cream of tartar powder, and the purest and most healthful baking powder beyond question.

HARKINS IN WEST INDIES.

A letter received from A. K. Munde, who is travelling as business manager with the W. S. Harkins Co. in the south, tells of excellent business being done by the troupe in all points on their tour. The letter was written from Port of Spain, where they played to most satisfactory business. All previous records had been broken in Bermuda and Barbados. After leaving Port of Spain the company were to travel to Colon, then Panama, to Jamaica, back to Barbados and then would return to New York. "With the aid of white duck suits and Panamas we're trying to keep cool," were his closing lines.

DIED IN ST. ANDREW'S.

Mrs. Helen Forbes Mowat, widow of Charles E. Mowat, died Saturday morning at her home in St. Andrew's. The deceased was a daughter of the late Dr. W. Brydson-Jack, for many years chancellor of the University of New Brunswick, and resided here in early life. Her husband predeceased her in 1885. One daughter, Miss Miriam M. Mowat of St. Andrew's, and one son, Reginald C. Mowat of Montreal, survive. Two sisters and three brothers also survive. They are Mrs. G. B. Fraser of Chatham, Mrs. Louis Mudge of St. John, Arthur Brydson-Jack and Dr. Brydson-Jack of Vancouver, and Prof. Ernest Brydson-Jack of Winnipeg, formerly professor of Civil Engineering of the U.N.B. The funeral will take place tomorrow at St. Andrew's.

A STRAIGHT KICK.

One of the ponies owned in the city is some kicker. A boy was riding it up Queen street a few days ago, and when passing the court house a black and white dog ran out and began to bite at its heels. The little fellow, although going at a good clip let go one at its hind feet, catching the dog squarely in the stomach. The blow sent the dog sprawling into a mud puddle, but it soon got up, velped a few times and then limped away.

EASTER MESSAGE to Women

Indications point to a busy week in Our Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Department. A more complete and varied assortment of New York Style Suits than we have ever before shown.

Prices Ranging from \$12.00 to \$30.00.

One Piece Suits

Sizes and styles to suit the most fastidious taste. They come in Silks, Voiles, Crepes, Taffettas, and all the newest colorings in wool material, made in the latest 1914 designs.

Seperate Skirts

In Plaids, Checks, Plain and Fancy in Pig Top and Regular Lengths. The new creations are here in plenty, for the well-dressed women who appreciate values.

NECKWEAR for Easter WATCH WINDOWS FOR SAMPLE DISPLAY

Notice! Our KID GLOVE SALE Starts Wednesday 8th., and Continues until Saturday Night, 10 p. m.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

JUST RECEIVED

A SHIPMENT OF

FISHING NETS

SALMON NETS, SHAD NETS, HERRING NETS.

Also in Stock **MANILLA ROPE, TARRED ROPE, COTTON ROPE.** All sizes for fishing purposes.

Tar, Oakum, Pitch, Rosin, Boat Paint, etc.

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WHOLESALE The Hardware People RETAIL
Domestic Sanitary and Heating Engineers.

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They are made to please because they are pure. They are as wholesome for the little ones as for the grown-ups. Not one single ingredient is to be found in these confections that is harmful. No pastes or mixtures are employed. No artificial colorings are used. Packed in dainty, enticing boxes, they make a gift worth giving.

HUNT & MacDONALD

GUN METAL CALF BOOTS

FOR LADIES

New SHAPES in Buttoned or Laced

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H. S. CAMPBELL SHOEMAN

Why Not Take a Hint From Nature?

Paint your houses inside and out, buildings, fences, wagons, sleds. Be in keeping with the fields and forests. Everything concerning Nature cloths itself in a new garb of beautiful colors.

We can assist you in keeping abreast with Nature by applying a coat of

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