

The Daily Mail

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THE SOUTHAMPTON RAILWAY

The investigation into the charges made in connection with the Southampton Railway to be held here next week is looked forward to with considerable interest. The inquiry has been ordered by the Dominion Government and Mr. R. A. Pringle, K.C., of Ottawa has been appointed a commissioner to conduct it. It was Mr. F. B. Carvell, M.P., who first brought the matter to the attention of Parliament but it is scarcely likely that he will be called upon to take any active part in the investigation. The government will we presume be represented by counsel and no doubt the Southampton Railway Company will also have somebody present to look after its interests. As all those concerned are Conservatives it is safe to say that the counsel employed will be of the same political faith.

While it is true that the charges were instigated by Mr. Carvell, it must not be forgotten that Col. McLeod, M.P., for York played an important part in the affair. As a matter of fact it is more than probable that for some ill advised remarks which he made in parliament when the matter was under discussion, there would have been no investigation. Here is what he said in part on that occasion as reported by the press:

"I think I ought to say to the House that I am familiar, very familiar with the facts laid before this House by my hon. friend (Mr. Carvell). I ought to say also that I FULLY CONCUR IN MANY OF THE STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE. He has not been able to bring it home to the Government—I do not think he has attempted to do so—that any wrong has been done, or has been attempted to be done by the Government. I do not think my hon. friend attempted even to insinuate that Mr. Johnson, the engineer, has been guilty of any deliberate wrong. But I say, I think I ought to say, that Mr. Johnson, the engineer in the case, when he made such a report as he did make, made it HAVING BEEN DECEIVED AS TO THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE CASE. I BELIEVE THAT THAT REPORT IS NOT IN ALL DETAILS, A CORRECT STATEMENT OF THE COST OF THE SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT WENT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT ROAD. I have kept pretty well in touch with and I have been familiar with the construction of that road since its conception. BUT I DO SAY FROM MY OWN KNOWLEDGE GLEANED BY LIVING ON THE SPOT and by talking to the men whom my hon. friend has cited tonight as having given evidence in the case of Stewart vs. Southampton Railway Company, I AM IN A POSITION TO KNOW THAT THESE ITEMS ARE PADDED ITEMS, AND THOSE ITEMS WHICH MR. JOHNSON HAS ACCEPTED AND UPON WHICH VERY PROPERLY THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS, ACCEPTING HIS STATEMENT PAID THE SUBSIDY, ARE NOT TRUE AND CORRECT STATEMENTS OF FACT IN REGARD TO WHAT WENT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT RAILWAY."

The erratic member for York certainly let the cat out of the bag to use a familiar term, and is now on the horns of a dilemma. If he was in a position two months ago to know that the items were "padded" it is to be presumed that he still has the information, and Commissioner Pringle will not be doing his duty to the public if he does not call upon him to give evidence. The colonel's reputation for veracity will certainly suffer if the charges are not proven, so from a personal if not from a political standpoint he should be willing to lend the commissioner every assistance in his power. If the charges are sustained the Dominion Government of which Col. McLeod is a tame follower, must take the responsibility, while the Provincial government of which he was formerly a member will not be held altogether blameless for any crooked work that might have been done. And so which ever horn of the dilemma Col. McLeod chooses to accept his prestige as a public man will be likely to suffer a rude jolt from the enquiry, no matter how it turns out. In regard to the Southampton Railway matter the member for York certainly stands in a most peculiar position and the extrication process will be watched by the public with considerable interest.

ANOTHER TORY DEAL

Another piece of evidence as to the extraordinary way in which the present Ottawa government does business was supplied in the Public Accounts Committee of the Commons last week when the story of the purchase of a site for a post office at Fort Frances, Ontario, was told. Apparently, all that happened in the deal was that a friend of the government, appointed to act as agent for the dominion in the purchase of the property, secured the land required for \$8,350 and turned it over to the country for \$16,500. A trivial thing to the Borden cabinet, no doubt, but it cost the people of Canada more than \$8,000 of public money.

In July, 1912, according to evidence given before the committee, Mr. A. D. George, a prominent Conservative of Fort Frances, was appointed to act as agent for the government in securing the land for the post office building. Two adjoining lots were to be purchased. One of the two was owned by a Mr. Frawley, a Fort Frances druggist, and through a law clerk named Anderson, employed in his own office, Mr. George secured an option on this piece of ground for \$8,000. On the second lot the option was for \$1,500. After both options had been obtained the properties were purchased by Mr. George who, it was testified, represented that his clerk, Anderson, was acting as agent for the government. Then the two lots of land were turned over to the dominion for \$16,500 but in the meantime a house which stood on the Frawley property was sold by Mr. George for \$1,450. In reality, then, the net cost of the site to Mr. George was \$8,350 but the obliging Conservative government at Ottawa paid him \$16,500 so he would seem to have made a rather tidy profit out of the public treasury which the Borden ministers are supposed to guard.

During the sitting of the committee evidence was given by Messrs. Frawley and Anderson bringing out the facts as outlined in the foregoing paragraph. Mr. Frawley also testified that at the very outside the property could not be valued at more than \$11,000. A rather remarkable fact was that officials of the post office department admitted on the stand that the department had made no search of the title to the property. Such a search might have saved some thousands of dollars to the public treasury; but, then, of course, a friend of the government wouldn't have got the money.

MAILISMS

The City Fathers seem to have a busy time of it this week and the worst is yet to come.

Haynes, the Sydney murderer, has made a confession implicating the wife of the murdered man.

The City Council when it gets through with the mayoralty recount should grapple with the daylight saving problem.

A bill to abolish tipping has passed its second reading in the senate. Should it become law, a start might be made in the Pullman cars of the I. R. C.

The Federal principle as a solution of the Home Rule problem is gaining ground in the old country.

The Mexican War is still being carried on in the U. S. newspapers and moving picture theatres.

The dredge Tantawaula has arrived in port ready for her summer's operations on the river channel.

An agitation for a clean up week has not yet been started in Fredericton.

The latest report is that Premier Flemming's proposed trip to New York to consult a specialist has been postponed.

DIED LAST EVENING.

Mrs. Dorothy May Chappell, wife of William Chappell of this city, passed away last evening at the home of her brother, John C. Smith, Regent street. The deceased was aged twenty-six years. Besides her husband she is survived by two sons, James and Charles, one daughter, Mildred, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Smith, and two brothers, Thomas G. Smith and John C. Smith, all of this city. The funeral will take place on Friday with service at the house by Rev. A. F. Newcomb at two-thirty. Interment will be made at the Rural cemetery.

W. A. Walker of Moncton, is in the city.

A LETTER FROM REV. DR. KIERSTEAD

To The Editor of The Mail:

I regretted very much to see in last night's issue of the Mail what purported to be an account of my address before the Executive yesterday morning. So far as I could tell no reporter was a member of that delegation and I would not expect any other member to give out for publication any information upon the matter. It is true that in the interest of what we believed to be the public good, I presented the case of the delegation to the Executive, and discussed in a comparative way the relative merits of the two main candidates for the position of Police Magistrate. I expected, of course the members of the Government to check up and test the accuracy of my statements in whatever way they felt necessary, but otherwise, I did not expect our deliberations to go outside of the room, or to find their way into the public press.

It is surely no harm for any man to aspire to the honorable position of police magistrate or to have his friends interested in his behalf and under such circumstances the fitness of a candidate for the position is a proper subject of consideration. But it is not necessary in the public interest and it is surely lacking in fairness to the persons concerned that such consideration should be given any more publicity than is absolutely necessary. And the account which you gave of my criticism is inaccurate in several particulars. It is true, for example, that in reply to a question I did say that I understood the Gleaner was supporting one applicant but I did not say our opposition was in that account, I said positively that we were not opposing because the Gleaner supported, but because we believed the Gleaner supported the wrong man.

We were simply anxious to secure for the city as good an official as it is possible in our conditions, and although fitness for the position is necessarily the one consideration in a question of this nature, I wanted the discussion to be as impersonal as possible, and to avoid unnecessarily wounding the feelings of any one.

Sincerely Yours,

N. C. KIERSTEAD.

SIR FREDERIC HAS NOT YET DECLINED

(St. John Telegraph)

While the report that Sir Frederic Barker was disposed yesterday and that physicians in attendance advised him against accepting the chairmanship of the royal commission to inquire into the Dugal charges was true, Sir Frederic authorized a statement to The Telegraph last evening that he was not in a position to say definitely that he would be obliged to decline the chairmanship of the commission but that as soon as he was he would be glad to let the public know.

Great regret was expressed that the illness of Sir Frederic had thrown doubt upon ability to preside over the commission, and Judge McKeown named as a member of the commission, voiced the general feeling when he said that his regret and sorrow if Sir Frederic were unable to undertake the duty would be deep indeed. Judge McKeown said last evening that he had given his assurance to the governor that he would act as a member of the commission. Mr. Barker was in Sackville yesterday and could not be reached, but it is believed that he will accept a place on the commission from a sense of public duty.

The illness of Sir Frederic is likely to delay the warrants for a few days.

CONVENTION OF NEEDLEWORK GUILD

Washington, D.C., May 7—Many women of prominence filled the parlors of the Raleigh Hotel today when the annual convention of the Needlework Guild of America was called to order by the president, Mrs. Truman H. Newberry of Detroit. The guild was founded in 1885 and was patterned after the English society of the same name, of which Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra and other members of the royal family are active members. The American organization has a membership of thousands of women in all parts of the country. All that is required of a member is the contribution each year of two or three new garments or articles of household linen, which are distributed at the beginning of winter to various charities and individuals. This simple requirement results each year in the distribution of more than half a million garments among the poor. Mrs. Levi P. Morton is the honorary president of the national organization and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is the honorary president of the District of Columbia branch.

S. Douglas of Stanley, is at the Barker House.

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ON THE BISLEY TEAM

Mrs. M. Atkinson has received word from her nephew Charles M. Gratez, son of Rev. W. G. Gratez, Sunnyslope, Alta, that he is on the Bisley Team sailing from Quebec, May 5th for England. Young Gratez is under fifteen years, and won distinction last year at Toronto carrying off the forty dollar prize together with two silver cups, one to be retained as his property, the other to be given up to the next winner. He also won the championship of Canada as the youngest marksman.

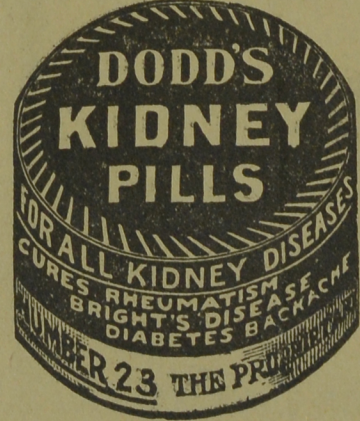
MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

A much needed improvement is being made today in St. Mary's, a crew of men being engaged in straightening and repairing the plank sidewalk.

NATIONAL

Ex. Warden W. R. Fawcett, of Southampton is at the Barker.

F. G. Rennie of St. John arrived in this city last night.



GO AT YOUR HOUSECLEANING RIGHT

The task of housecleaning is no longer a task, but becomes a pleasure, when you plan your work, and attack your housecleaning problems with the right kind of helps. Let us supply you with the proper disinfectants, cleaners, and household brighteners, we have any help you need, Silver Polish, Chamois Skins, Gold Pail Powdered Borax, Strong Ammonia, Fumigators, Sponges. Also protect your Winter Garments by using Camphor Flakes, and other Moth preventives.

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