

The Daily Mail

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THE N.T.R. DEBATE

Much has been said by Government speakers in the recent Parliamentary debate upon the Transcontinental Railway and by the government press in regard to the alleged over-payment by the late Liberal Cabinet to contractors employed in the road's construction. "The country was robbed" they say, echoing the partisan Gutelius-Lynch Staunton report. "Contractors were paid more than they earned. Over-classification was frequent, and the contractors profited improperly at public expense in consequence."

True, they offer no credible evidence to support the charges and accompanying insinuations. There are many words but no proof. But suppose the charges were based on fact, then why has the Borden Government not taken steps to have restored to the public treasury the money which was fished.

The Government has instituted no prosecutions against anyone else connected with the building of the Transcontinental. But prosecutions are unnecessary; the Government has an easier method at its command.

Every contractor on the Transcontinental was required to deposit with the Dominion authorities a heavy deposit to be forfeited if his contract was not properly carried out. Mr. Gordon Grant, chief engineer of the project for four or five years past, has testified upon oath that the total security thus deposited has been more than sufficient to meet all claims which might be made upon it. This security is still in the hands of the present National Transcontinental Commissioner, Major Leonard, still under the control of the Dominion Government.

If the Liberals made over-payments to any contractors; if any contractors gained public money dishonestly through over-classification; if the charges and insinuations of the Borden speakers and the Borden press are true, why have Mr. Borden and his colleagues not hastened to reimburse the public treasury by taking from the contractors' security in their hands an amount equal to that which they say was gained improperly under Liberal rule? Prosecutions are not necessary; the Government has a quicker method than prosecutions to restore these "stolen funds."

But the Government has not availed itself of this method. It has not deducted a cent from the deposits in its hands. Could better proof be needed of the utter falsity of the Conservative charge of over-payments and over-classification? The Government's course is in itself the best proof of the falseness of Conservative assertions and insinuations.

There is another bit of conclusive proof. Gordon Grant was appointed chief engineer under Liberal rule. He certified every estimate upon which payments for Transcontinental construction were made. If ever payments were made, if over classification was permitted, then Mr. Gordon Grant was either incompetent or dishonest. Those who know Mr. Grant are well aware that he is both competent and honest. The Borden Government knows it for the Borden Government kept him in office. And by continuing him in office the Government itself gives the lie to its own friends who shout of over-payments and over-classification on the Transcontinental under Liberal rule.

When the Royal Commission on the Valley Railway charges gets settled down to business they should make an effort to put on the record a conversation which Hon. John Morrissey is alleged to have had with Mr. A. R. Gould on a certain occasion last summer when the Valley Road was being inspected.

One of the complaints which the "local government party" registered against Mr. Pinder during the recent bye-election in York, was that he gave away party secrets. Well it wasn't Mr. Pinder who put the opposition wise re the timber lands steal.

It looks as if the three million dollars promised by Hon. J.D. Hazen for the Valley Railway bridges is not by any means a sure thing. Acting Premier Foster in the House of Commons yesterday in reply to a question by Hon. H. R. Emmerson, said that no order-in-council had been passed, but a proposal had been made to the government and was now under consideration.

Replying to a question in the Legislature last evening, Hon. Dr. Landry stated that the C. P. R. had been supplying annual passes to the members for about four or five years. Under the old government there were no snaps of that kind floating around. The old government did not stand in with big corporations.

Too people who thronged the galleries of the Legislature last evening with the expectation that they would hear something drop must have been terribly disappointed. The Flemming Government certainly knows how to mark time.

"The shadow of a great name" who recently declared in the Legislature that the people of this province made no mistake when they returned forty-six supporters of Premier Flemming may soon have another think coming to him.

Although we are told that the government supporters in the Legislature are keen for a thorough investigation of the graft charges, they seem to find it necessary to hold a good many caucuses to agree upon a plan of action.

Hon. George J. Clarke has been appointed acting premier and Hon. J. A. Murray acting minister of lands and mines. Both are new members of the administration. The old timers have to take a back seat these days.

The opposition members in the House of Assembly are few in number, but they have succeeded in kicking up the biggest political rumpus this province has known since Confederation.

The acting Premier of New Brunswick must be badly rattled. He forgot to announce to the press that Premier Flemming had been granted leave of absence. And he is a newspaper man too.

Premier Flemming is reported to be ill at Woodstock with an attack of stomach trouble. It is a wonder that he was not stricken down with this ailment weeks ago.

Scurrilous abuse of Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., is scarcely an appropriate reply to the serious charges of graft preferred against the Flemming Government.

The man who was described by a Tory healer some months ago as "the biggest grafter in New Brunswick" is certainly having his own trouble.

If Hon. George J. Clarke had had his fortune told about three months ago, he would probably have declined office in the Flemming Government.

Grafters great and grafters small who have flourished under Flemming rule seem to have about reached the "end of their tether."

Having been abandoned by Capt. Kidd, the Tory ship of state is now running against a strong headwind with the jib aft.

The hangers on of the Flemming Government do not appear to take kindly to the charges of graft preferred against the outfit.

The Tory grafters and drafters are certainly on the anxious seat these days.

Another government caucus last night.

Consternation reigns in the ranks of the local grafters.

DO CORNS LEAD TO CANCER

As yet this has not been proved, but interested parties will find nothing better for corns than Putnam's Corn Extractor, 25c. at all dealers.

Penna railroad orders 41 all-steel box cars.

Peoples Gas declared regular dividend.

20 active rails declined .34 per cent

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SESSION OF HOUSE WAS DISAPPOINTING

The House met at 9.20 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

Hon. Mr. Murray introduced a bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Agricultural Societies, Limited, which on the ground of urgency, was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Clarke introduced a bill to amend the New Brunswick Joint Stock Act, which gives power to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council to change the name of any company, which, on the ground of urgency, was read a second time.

The House went into Committee with Dr. Bourque in the chair and agreed to the bills to authorize the Trustees of St. James' Church, Newcastle, to sell certain land, to provide for the superannuation of John L. Marsh, Esq., Police Magistrate of the City of Fredericton, and to authorize the City of St. John to enter into an agreement with Messrs. McAvity & Sons respecting rates and taxes, each with amendments.

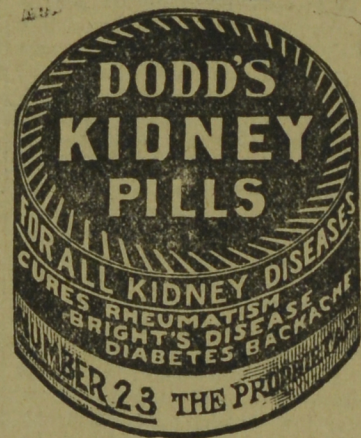
The House adjourned at 9.30 o'clock

"GENERAL" COXEY HAS A BIRTHDAY

Massillon, O., April 16—"General" Jacob S. Coxey, who twenty years ago attracted the attention of the entire country by leading an "army" of unemployed on Washington, celebrated his sixtieth birthday anniversary at his home here today. The "general" is busy with preparations for his second march on the national capital. He declares that the country is now in a more deplorable state than it was in 1894 and that a demonstration of one million unemployed men in an invasion of the national capital is necessary to arouse congress to a sense of its duty or in other words, to enact such laws as the "general" believes will relieve the industrial depression and better the condition of the working classes. Mr. Coxey hoped to get his "army" under way today, but the difficulty of finding capable lieutenants and several other obstacles have made a postponement necessary. He declares that many "recruits" are reporting daily and that he expects to start for Washington with a force of many thousands before the middle of May.

POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS.

The St. John Times says:—"Among the names mentioned as a possible successor to Bishop Richardson, should he be called to the bishopric of Ottawa, are those of Archdeacon Raymond, Rev. Scovil Neales, of Sussex; Rev. Dean Schofield, Fredericton; Rev. T. W. Powell, Windsor, N.S., and possibly Rev. H. E. Diblee, Amherst, N.S."



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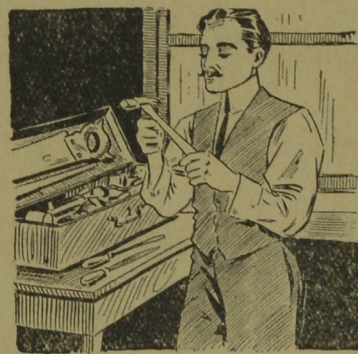
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