

THE DAILY MAIL

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THE LATE G. N. BABBITT

The Province of New Brunswick lost its oldest public servant and the City of Fredericton one of its foremost citizens by the death on Saturday of Mr. George N. Babbitt, I.S.O., deputy receiver general. Mr. Babbitt's death was quite unexpected, he died in harness, so to speak, and the news was a painful shock to the community. Mr. Babbitt was one of the oldest civil servants in the British empire, having been in the employ of the provincial government continuously since 1861. He has filled an important post under many governments; his duties brought him into close contact with all sorts and conditions of men, and we do not believe there is anybody who will disagree with us when we say that he had not a single enemy in the world. If ever there was a man who had lofty ideals and lived up to them it was the late George N. Babbitt. During his long and honorable public service of more than half a century, millions of dollars of public funds passed through his hands and it must be a source of pride to his family to know that there never was a breath or a shadow of suspicion against his integrity as a man and public servant. As an official of the crown and as a citizen he was absolutely honorable and trustworthy and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his co-workers in the government employ and fellow citizens to an unusual degree.

Mr. Babbitt had for over thirty years been the custodian of the public treasury and what he did not know of the intricacies of provincial finances was scarcely worth knowing. In his time he has supplied the raw material for many budget speeches delivered in the legislature, which were afterwards described by the party press as "an able exposition of provincial finances." The provincial secretary for the time being fired the balls which were prepared for him by Mr. Babbitt, the man behind the scenes.

Busy man though he was, Mr. Babbitt felt that he owed a duty to the community in which he lived and he cheerfully gave a portion of his time for the public good. He served as alderman for Kings Ward for many years and it is doubtful if our City Council ever had a more useful member. Actuated by a high sense of duty he gave close and careful attention to the city's interests and always cast his vote on the side of right. Although an alderman Mr. Babbitt was not in any sense a ward politician and was never regarded as such. For years Mr. Babbitt has displayed a warm interest in the affairs of Victoria Hospital, particularly in connection with the X-Ray apparatus and by his death that worthy institution has lost one of its best friends.

The private life of the late Mr. Babbitt was above reproach. He was the father of a large family and lived to see his sons and daughters filling positions of usefulness in the world. The same lofty ideals which characterized his public career were exemplified in his home life. He was a husband and father to be proud of. His death, while a great loss to the province and city, is an even greater loss to his grief-stricken family and the heartfelt sympathy of all will go out to them in the hour of their terrible bereavement.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

Mr. E. S. Carter, the energetic Liberal organizer, who is attending the session of the legislature, has offered a suggestion to the minister of public works which, if adopted, will be the means of putting an end to much of the wrongdoing which now prevails in connection with public works. He has addressed the following letter to the minister:

Fredericton, N.B., April 8, 1915.
Hon. John Morrissey, minister of public works, Fredericton.

Dear Mr. Minister:—Recalling our conversation of a few days ago when I said that I thought I could make a suggestion that would insure the construction of public works without any possibility of the padding of pay lists: You assured me at the time

that you would be pleased to have the suggestion and to act upon it if it commended itself to you.

I am therefore sending you attached to this letter copy for a public notice which I suggest should be sent to every foreman, structural superintendent or road superintendent in the service of the public works department of New Brunswick. You will note that it promises that every item of expenditure in connection with the work shall be published to the people of that locality as soon as the work is completed.

There is no auditor, Mr. Minister, like a man's neighbors. If the foreman knew that his accounts would be submitted fully and at once to the people who lived about him, there would not be a five-cent piece go stray.

I am,
Yours very truly,
E. S. CARTER.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

The cost of this work to be paid out of public monies of the Province of New Brunswick, will be posted in the post office and other public places in this parish as soon as the work is completed and will include:

- (1) The materials supplied and the names of those who supplied it and the prices for the same.
- (2) The names of the men employed—the time they are employed and their rates of pay.
- (3) The cost of superintendence—expenses—and the foreman's rate of pay.

JOHN MORRISSEY,
Minister of Public Works.

The graft element of the local government party, the men who pad the pay lists and commit other frauds, will see nothing good in Mr. Carter's suggestion, but it will commend itself to right thinking men who believe that honesty is the best policy.

Toronto Star:—The investigation by the Parliamentary committees at Ottawa proves that the general impression was not that the government was bent upon shutting out middlemen and middlemen's profits. The opposite impression had been created—in regard to dressings for wounds, in regard to boots, in regard to bicycles. Profit-seekers said "This is our chance." They also said "We must stand in with the government and with the party in power." The body that has corrected all this is Parliament—the same body that people are always scolding and accusing of talking too much and wasting time. It was parliament, not government, that forced all these boodling grafting transactions into the light of day. It was a Parliamentary committee that showed Mr. Powell his duty and made him return the money. The public surely owes a debt to those who brought out these facts. The government policy may have been virtuous, but if nobody knew about it, and nobody acted upon it, it was not of much practical value. But the parliamentary committee actually did and enforced what the government merely regarded as a pious opinion.

In the mayoralty election in Chicago a short time ago an effort was made to make American policies conform to German Kultur. A German American named Sweitzer was the Democratic candidate and was backed by the German vote. The result was that in a city which usually elects a Democratic mayor, he was defeated by 110,000 votes.

Evangelist Billy Sunday, who is conducting a campaign at Patterson, New Jersey, has fallen out with the newspaper reporters, and describes them as "Hars," "jackasses" and "ginks." An old chap named Dowie, who boasted of an unknissed son, who made an unsuccessful effort to evangelize New York some years ago, applied the epithet "stink pots" to the reporters who described his meetings.

The sensational rise of 30 points in the common stock of Bethlehem Steel has subjected the New York stock exchange to some adverse criticism. The stock pays no dividend and now sells at a higher price than the preferred, which pays seven per cent. The common stock has doubled in value since the first of this year. It looks as if there was something rotten somewhere.

The black hand had no terror for Jess Willard in his recent bout with Jack Johnston.

DIED IN HOSPITAL

Dorothy Hearn, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hearn passed away at the Victoria Public Hospital Friday night after a lingering illness with typhoid. Besides the parents a sister survives. All members of the family have been in the Victoria Hospital for some time. The funeral took place Saturday afternoon with services at three o'clock at Christchurch Parish Church by Rev. Mr. Greenwood. Interment was made at the Rural Cemetery.

MANY GLOWING TRIBUTES TO THE LATE
GEO. N. BABBITT

The funeral of the late George N. Babbitt, deputy receiver general of New Brunswick, is to take place on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30. The funeral service will be at Christchurch Cathedral, of which the deceased for many years was a sidesman. The adjournment of the House of Assembly until after the funeral is expected and the members of the legislature will attend the funeral. All officials of the various provincial departments also will attend.

S. W. Babbitt and A. R. Babbitt, sons of the deceased, are sappers in the Canadian Engineers at Ottawa and are expected to arrive by I.R.C. tomorrow at noon. Other relatives of the family are also expected to come to attend the funeral.

GENERAL REGRET.

General regret is expressed in Fredericton on account of the death of the deputy receiver general, who was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was one of the oldest civil servants in Canada. Records at the Crown Land Office show that he entered the service of the Province of New Brunswick October 29, 1860, in the Crown Land Department. After a year's service there he entered the office of the auditor general and since that time has been connected in various capacities with the financial department of the province. In earlier life the deceased was a member of the Fredericton Curling Club, resigning the office of secretary in 1873, when he was succeeded by Lt. Col. T. G. Loggie.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH.

The deceased had been in failing health for some time but the sudden seizure which resulted in his death Saturday afternoon was entirely unexpected. W. H. Dunlop of Ottawa, special auditor employed by the government, first noticed Mr. Babbitt's sickness and went to his assistance. Dr. Bourque, M.P.P., who was nearby was summoned and was the first physician present, but medical assistance was impossible.

DR. ALLEN'S TRIBUTE.

Dr. T. C. Allen, M.C., registrar of the Supreme Court, in speaking of the late Mr. Babbitt, said: "My acquaintance with Mr. Babbitt dates back to my boyhood days in the sixties. I remember when he took part many years ago in a public entertainment given by the Gymnasium Club of which he was a member. For thirty-three years I have been intimately associated with him in the government offices and regard his death as a great personal loss. No finer man ever lived than George N. Babbitt. As an official he was a hard and systematic worker and always courteous and obliging. He was a life long abstainer and a consistent advocate of temperance. He was a man of scholarly attainments and was exceedingly well informed. While he was a man of strong views and knew how to express them, he never failed to respect the opinions of others. A worthy man has been lost to the city and province in the death of Mr. Babbitt."

THE DEAN'S TRIBUTE.

At the evening sermon in Christchurch Cathedral last evening, the Very Rev. Dean Schofield paid a graceful tribute to the late Mr. Babbitt, who for many years had worshipped regularly at the Cathedral. The dean referred to him as a man of high character, whose death was a distinct loss to the community. He was a hard working man and devoted himself with all the energy he possessed to any task he set about to perform. The preacher extended the heartfelt sympathy of the Cathedral congregation to the grief-stricken family.

MR. J. H. DICKSON, K.C.

Speaking of the death of Mr. Babbitt, Mr. J. Howe Dickson, K.C., clerk of the executive council, said: "Since my appointment as clerk of the Executive Council, nearly fifteen years ago, I have been brought into almost daily contact with the late Mr. Babbitt in the performance of the duties of the positions we held under the provincial government, and came to appreciate him highly. He was a most intelligent and faithful public servant, a man of kindly disposition, with whom it was a pleasure to do business. By his death the province loses one of its most important officials, whose place it will be difficult to fill, and the city loses a good citizen who had high ideals of citizenship and lived up to them. To his fellow officials Mr. Babbitt's demise comes as a personal loss; he commanded the respect of all, was ever affable and ready to give the word of council or advice which, from his long experience, he was so well qualified to give."

COL. LOGGIE'S TRIBUTE.

Col. Loggie, deputy minister of lands and mines, in speaking of Mr. Babbitt's death, said: "Mr. Babbitt's death is a great public loss. For upwards of fifty years he was the officer entrusted with the exchequer of this province and his

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