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TORONTO REVELATIONS.

Comments of the Press on Tory Politicians' Exploitation of Foresters' Funds.

Mr. Foster and His Middle Man.

Montreal Herald.—The universal sympathy of his admiring fellow countrymen will go out to the Hon. George E. Foster in his present difficulty. The evidence taken before the insurance commission yesterday, putting the best face possible upon it, presents poor Mr. Foster as the dupe of a horrid middleman, to wit, his dear friend and valiant supporter, G. W. Fowler, Esq., Conservative member for Kings, New Brunswick. It appears from the evidence presented to the commission that there was a timber limit in British Columbia for sale, Mr. Peter Ryan being the owner thereof. That Mr. Ryan commissioned Mr. Levesconte, a Toronto barrister, to find him a purchaser. That in due season Mr. Levesconte got into touch with Mr. Fowler, M. P. That Mr. Foster bought the limit from Mr. Ryan, first securing two options to it, one at the price of \$170,000, which Mr. Ryan expected to get for himself, and the other at \$225,000 which was the figure Mr. Fowler wished to induce other people to believe he had to pay. That Mr. Fowler transferred his option to the Union Trust Company, of which our unfortunate friend, Mr. Foster was manager. That Mr. Ryan got his \$170,000 for himself and \$55,000 more which was put in the Bank of Montreal for somebody (or bodies) else as soon as Mr. Ryan signified as he very promptly and very obligingly did, and that he had no personal use for the sum. From all this it does seem to be safe to conclude that. Either Mr. Foster knew what was going on, or he didn't know. If he knew, he was a party to the process by which the wretched middle

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D. Allison, L.L.D., President.

WRONGING WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Moncton Transcript.—Astonishment scarcely expresses the attitude of the Independent Foresters throughout Canada at the revelations before the Royal Commission on insurance. The mismanagement respecting the Temple building, the foolishness of the enormous loss in the British and foreign business, did not surprise any of the members who had given personal attention to the subjects and who had opposed every one of these enterprises in the past.

The fact revealed that the Union Trust established with the funds of the I. O. F., was merely used as an organization to invest the funds of the order, without accounting in detail to the organization for the investment was not a surprise. Many members of the order had long recognized the aim and scope of this branch of the undertaking years ago and condemned it.

The rashness in speculation, characterizing Mr. Foster's management of the Union Trust was known by thoughtful men ever since the meeting of the High Court of New Brunswick in the town of St. Stephen, a few years ago, when Dr. Oronhyatekha refused to give at the request of a delegate information as to the amount of Mr. Foster's salary, and claimed that Mr. Foster was investing the monies of the order so as to produce no return of 10 per cent. on the investment.

Cautious business men and financiers instantly condemned the management, because they knew quite well that such a return could not be obtained from investments made up on a truly conservative business basis. The order is established upon a sound basis financially, and the fact that it has successfully withstood the enormous losses caused by errors of judgment and recklessness is proof in point, but that is insufficient reason why this management should be tolerated or condoned.

The order was getting along nicely until Dr. Oronhyatekha allowed a horde of Tory politicians out of office to fasten themselves as leeches upon the funds.

Prior to that, however, this permitting Mr. McGillivray, the supreme secretary, to run as a Conservative candidate in North Ontario and to sit as a Tory M. P., was a stupendous mistake. Mr. McGillivray was paid a large salary to look after the business of the order, and he could not properly discharge the duties of his office, whilst running elections, acting as a politician and sitting in parliament.

There are many Foresters who would like to know if any of the funds of the order have found their way into the coffers of the Tory party, but though this may not be directly so, one thing is certain, that time paid for by the order was placed at the service of the Tory party. Then Mr. Foster appeared on the scene. That brilliant financier! Dr. Oronhyatekha ought to have known better than to have employed him. Foster had rolled up at Ottawa a greater deficit than had ever been. How could he be expected to look after the investment of the funds of the I. O. F. successfully?

Then there was another ex-Tory cabinet minister Dr. Montague, given an appointment as an organizer, and he goes to Australia and gets himself mixed up in an alleged contribution for political purposes at the Antipodes.

With Foster, Montague, and McGillivray, all Tory politicians, it was not surprising that by and by the smaller fry wanted a share in things which were going. Bennett, the East Simcoe hustler, the gentleman who stands upon the floors of parliament and assails the characters and reputations of others! Mr. Fowler, M. P. for Kings, and Albert, forgot in his haste to get rich that most of these loaned monies were contributed into the coffers of the I. O. F. by hundreds of working men in Moncton employed by the I. C. R., whom standing upon the floors of parliament, he described as loafers not earning 10 cents per day.

It was aiding insult to injury! It was those men whose thrift and industry proved him such a good turn by providing the loaned money! And then there is Mr. Lefurage of Summerside who also is not above becoming richer on the borrowed savings of others.

Mr. Stevenson, High Counsellor for the order who stands out well in this investigation over yesterday, respecting a transaction in which one gentleman was concerned an expressive term, which the reader had better ponder over for himself. If Mr. Stevenson's use of that expressive term is justifiable or defensible for one moment, then all of the Tory members of parliament named should be planted enough to justify no further holding of their seats for one moment. The whole batch of them should resign!

The basis of security for an organization such as the I. O. F. is that its funds should be invested upon a conservative basis. It is nothing less than criminal for anyone to either consent to or participate in reckless speculation with the funds of such an order for personal aggrandizement.

So far as the transactions appear to the ordinary members of the I. O. F., it is that the Tory politicians speculating in the funds of the organization is a case where the funds of the I. O. F. ran practically all the risk and the politicians all the advantages of gain.

When it is recalled that an organization such as the I. O. F., composed of tens of thousands of men, largely from the wage earning classes, whose possible widows and orphans have merely the endowment from its funds, in the case of the bread winner's death to stand between them and poverty, the reckless use of such funds in wildcat speculation, in land or timber limits, is morally a crime.

Miss Gushley (to professor, who has just played Chopin's "Funeral March")—That's awfully jolly! Now play one of Lohengrin's songs. — Punch.

OTTAWA RIVER TRAGEDY.

Three Lives Lost in Collision and Two Steamers One of Which Sank Immediately.

Hudson, Que., Sept. 27.—One of the worst accidents in the history of navigation on the Ottawa occurred about 3.30 o'clock this morning, opposite here. The steamer Ottawa, up bound collided with the steamer Maude, going in the opposite direction, smashing in the latter right up to the wheel house. The Maude sank immediately, her top deck only remaining above water.

Captain Gaudier called the alarm to all hands on board, but nevertheless three were drowned.

Miss Benson, of Oka ladies' maid on the boat, fell into the wreckage among the cattle and was never seen again.

The engineer and an unknown passenger also lost their lives. The engineer's name was Mr. B. Pawtry. The passenger who was drowned died beside his horse. None of the bodies have so far been recovered. Eight horses and all the cattle perished.

The officers of the Maude claim they gave the proper whistles and put the blame on the Ottawa, but as she continued on her course, nothing has been heard from her as yet.

Steamer Hall came to the rescue and took the passengers off the Maude.

MR. SHEPHERD DESCRIBES COLLISION.

Mr. R. W. Shepherd, general manager of the Ottawa River Navigation Company told a Herald representative the story of the collision as he had heard it. It was about 1.38 this morning, dark, cloudy and somewhat showery. The Maude was coming down the river opposite Hudson loaded with livestock and cheese for Montreal. The Ottawa, of the Ottawa Forwarding Company's line, was passing up, bound for Smith's Falls, and other ports on the Rideau. The channel at the point is without obstruction and is at least half a mile wide. The officers of the Maude say they whistled to pass to starboard. The Ottawa signalled to pass to port, and turned in that direction. The man at the wheel used every effort to turn the Maude, but

before he could do so the iron prow of the oncoming vessel had struck her, cutting through her guards and piercing six feet into her hull. The boat sank within four minutes in eighteen or twenty feet of water. She is lying now with the water washing about four feet over her promenade deck. The hurricane deck is above the waves.

On feeling the shock of the collision the passengers all rushed on deck. Miss Maggie Benson, the stewardess fell in the dark, into the hole which the Ottawa had made in the vessel's hull. Miss Benson was a young lady about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, and had been in the company's employ for about five years. Her home is at Oka.

B. Pawtry, engineer, reached the deck in safety, but went below again to secure some of his effects from his room. The rapid sinking of the vessel entrapped him and he never reached the top again.

An unknown passenger, who is supposed to be from Montebello, also reached the top in safety, but lost his life by going below to untie a horse of which he had charge.

The steamer Hall came to the scene a few minutes after the collision and took all the surviving passengers to Montreal.

The captain and mate of the Maude were both on duty at the time of the collision, and state emphatically that no blame can attach to them. They gave the first signal and as the channel was very wide, there was no apparent reason for the accident.

The officers of both vessels know the channel thoroughly as they have been navigating the river for years at night. Captain Gaudier has been in command of a vessel on the Ottawa Navigation Company's line for fifteen years.

The Maude has been running on the line for twenty-five years. She had on board about eight horses, thirty head of cattle and 150 sheep. These of course, all perished. Mr. Shepherd has engaged a scow and diver to come down from Cadillac this afternoon to make a search for the victims.

MARIE ANTONETTE WENT EAST.

The magnificent Gourlay piano of Marie Antonette design that attracted so much admiration in the T. Eaton Company's model drawing room at the Toronto Exhibition was selected by Mr. J. McDonald, of the McDonald Music Co., Halifax, who will exhibit at the Halifax Fair. This instrument with the Sheraton, Empire and Louis XV. designs shown by Gourlay, Winter & Leeming this year gave the Canadian public and American visitors too, an effective object lesson on the important position to which Canada has attained in the creation of the artistic.

Gourlay pianos have secured the endorsement of the Canadian consumer with a readiness that falls to the lot of few commodities, and it has frequently been remarked that no other retail house in Canada could so readily manufacture an instrument and receive the immediate approval of a critical public as the house of Gourlay, Winter & Leeming has done. From Canadian Music Trades Journal, Sept. 15th, 1906.

BABY NEARLY DEAD.

Mrs. John Cuddy, Killaloe Station, Ont., says:—"My baby was so nearly dead that I had to place my ear close to his breast to know that he was breathing. He was in this condition when I first gave him Baby's Own Tablets and I hardly dared hope that they would save him. But they helped him almost at once, and soon made him a well child. He is now two years old and weighs forty-five pounds and has never known a sick day since I first gave him the Tablets. Baby's Own Tablets cure constipation, indigestion, diarrhoea, teething troubles, break up colds, excoriated bottoms and give little ones natural healthy sleep. And the mother has a guarantee that this medicine contains no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent by mail at 25c a box by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

FORESTRY CONVENTION.

Earl Grey Opens Dominion Gathering at Vancouver.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 28.—In the presence of a gathering of gentlemen, many of them distinguished in Canada and the United States, Governor-General Grey yesterday opened the meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association.

"I cannot commend to you too strongly," said His Excellency in an eloquent address, "the importance of studying now, before it is too late, those methods and principles of forest management, which the experience and research of other nations may indicate to be the best."

Besides Lieut.-Governor Dunsmuir of British Columbia, Lieut.-Governor Buley of Alberta was present, also several local Cabinet Ministers and a number of the Dominion members. Mr. Price was present, representing the United States Forestry service. Hon. F. J. Sweeney, Surveyor General of New Brunswick is also a member.

The forestry convention banquet was held in the evening, and was a great success.

ONE OR TWO HOURS A DAY.

Conductor Thompson Got Little Time to Rest.

Guelph, Ont., Sept. 28.—The inquiry into the cause of the death of Engineer Thomas Farley of Palmerston, who was killed in the wreck between the fruit special and the mixed train on the Grand Trunk at Gourock on Saturday morning last, was resumed here last night.

Conductor Joseph Thompson of London stated in his evidence that he had orders from Harrisburg to Guelph Junction. These orders did not give him right of way over No. 44, the mixed train.

After he left Galt at 5.15 he dozed in the caboose, and did not waken until he was thrown from his chair by the collision. He had not had more than one or two hours' rest a day during that week. He did not look for rest at London, because the roadmaster told him there was no one to take his place, and he went out on his run on Friday feeling he could attend to it. He had two new, inexperienced brakemen, and in consequence had more work to do.

The engineer had told witness he passed this place thinking he could make Guelph Junction before No. 44 left.

Thos. F. Ryan, despatcher at St. Thomas, stated he issued the orders for the fruit train from Harrisburg to Guelph Junction. There were no night operators between the two points, and it was the duty of the engineer and conductor to give the mixed a clear track if they could not make the Junction before 6.10 a. m.

When he heard the fruit train had left Hespeler and the mixed Guelph Junction he ordered the Guelph operator to call doctors and get a train ready to go to the scene of the wreck.

The inquest was adjourned until Monday.

HEAVY DAMAGE CAUSED BY FIRE.

Thirty-four Families Homeless in a Montreal Suburb.

Montreal, Sept. 27.—Thirty-four families are homeless as the result of a conflagration yesterday at St. Louis de Mile End, a northeastern suburb of Montreal. Eight houses, a stable and a clothing factory were totally destroyed, and four other houses were badly gutted. The loss is estimated at a hundred thousand dollars. No lives were lost, but several narrow escapes are reported. Two women were overcome with excitement, and to be removed to a hospital. Another, aged 85, was rescued by the firemen as the flames were rapidly surrounding her. She had been alone in the house, and seemed to have lost all hope of getting out. When discovered she was kneeling on the floor praying fervently. The fire started in a yard, where some children had been playing. It spread to a shed, then to the stable, and, with a high wind to carry it, crossed St. Lawrence street and gutted a brick residential block over there. The local fire brigade were unable to cope with the situation, but with aid from Montreal the fire was finally controlled.