

The Daily Herald.

VOL XII

FREDERICTON, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1907

NO. 206

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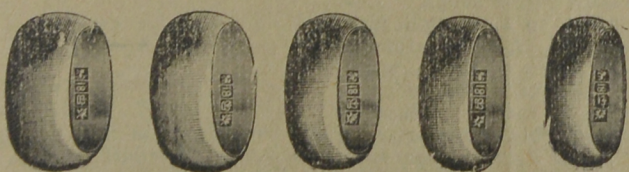
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GRAHAM INTERVIEWED

New Minister of Railways and His Attitude Towards the Intercolonial

(Special to Herald.)

TORONTO, Ont., Sept. 6.—

Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways and Canals, was busy yesterday at the parliament buildings.

Asked whether the Quebec bridge was under his jurisdiction, Mr. Graham replied: "Only in a general way. My deputy went to Quebec, but there is no liability on the part of the government."

"Do you not think that a great public work of this kind should be subject to government inspection while building?" "No," said Mr. Graham. "I cannot say that I do. Government inspection would carry

with it responsibility on the part of the government."

"Take the present case. It seems that the Phoenix Company are liable, but if their work had been passed by government inspection it might have been different."

As to the Intercolonial Railway, Mr. Graham's platform may be summed up as follows: 1. Road must give good service to the people.

2. It should pay its way, and if possible, pay some interest on investment.

3. Beyond this, government roads should not aim at profits, but should reduce fares and thus bring about the reduction of fares upon other roads.

QUEBEC BRIDGE INQUIRY

Workmen Swear They Saw Cracked Plate in Structure Before the Structure Went Down

QUEBEC, Sept. 6.—At the opening of the coroner's inquest yesterday on the subject of the unfortunate bridge disaster, the coroner addressing the newspaper correspondents present requesting that they report accurately, as some reports, to which publicity had been given, were not in accordance with the facts.

The evidence of the workman, Alex. Oulmet, was continued. He declared that some time ago he noticed a large crack in a plate of steel at the main pier shoe. This plate was three-quarters of an inch thick and about six feet square and the crack was twenty inches long. Asked as to whether this damaged plate was replaced between the time he last saw it and the accident, he replied that he could not say but it was his opinion that it was still in the pier when the disaster happened.

Witness was painting the steel work when he saw this defect at the end of July and he worked for three days in the immediate vicinity. This damaged plate did not support any weight.

There were three other workmen to witness knowledge who saw this crack but two of them were killed. R. LaFrance being the only survivor of the three. The crack went through and through. Raoul LaFrance was then called. He began to work at the Quebec bridge as a painter in July last. He remembered having been shown the damaged plate by Oulmet, and corroborated what the latter had said regarding its dimensions. The crack was about half an inch open and witness saw it for the last time about fifteen days before he quit work. He left the employ of the bridge company about ten days before the disaster. Witness did not speak to any one about it because he thought the directors had seen it. The crack was in an oblique position.

Mr. McClure, engineer for the Phoenix Bridge company on the works, was recalled and asked if he had occasion to inspect the place where the alleged damaged plate of steel was, to which he replied he certainly had. Although he had examined the place in question many times during the summer he had not seen the crack in the plate.

Mr. McClure told the jury that this plate was of no importance, only when the wind was blowing, and was practically only a wind plate. To the coroner, he said he remembered visiting the spot lately and of seeing the plate, but had never seen the crack. Asked if a crack in this position of the size described would affect the solidity of the bridge, he stated that any crack would affect the solidity of the bridge but he was most emphatic that this would not have been dangerous. He admitted, however, that if he had seen a crack of this kind he would immediately have taken steps to have it repaired.

Inspector Kinloch, of the Quebec bridge, was also positive there was no crack in the plate mentioned by Oulmet. Chief Engineer Hoare, who was next examined, said, that supposing such a crack had existed it would not to any extent affect the solidity of the bridge. This plate was of secondary importance. The distance between this plate and the detected chord was from 75 to 100 feet. Asked who had authority to stop the work he said that he could probably have stopped it by communicating with the Phoenix Company, but that their chief engineer, Mr. Dean, was the proper person. Asked by one of the jurors if he had a report on the damage to this chord, when it was unloaded from the car, he replied that he had this information, and it was reported to him that it was as good as ever.

The inquest then adjourned for a week.

DEVELOPING NEW AREAS

Dominion Steel Company Will Put Ores on the Market

(Special to Herald.)

MONTREAL, Que., Sept. 6.—A special despatch to the Star from Sydney, quotes a director of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, to the effect that as a result of a directors' meeting, the company will develop ore areas at Wabana, Newfoundland and sell the ore for export in the open market.

Since the company is said to have practically an inexhaustible supply, estimated at 200,000,000 tons, enough to last for several hundred years, the decision is regarded as having an important bearing on the company's finances.

JAPANESE INVASION

Nearly 400 Coolies Landed This Week at Victoria—Many Others Coming

(Special to Herald.)

VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 6.—396 Japanese have landed at this port this week. The arrivals are all of the Coolie class. The captain of the Holt liner Teucer, reports that when news of the successful voyages of the Indiana and Kumerick to this port with cargoes of Japanese from Honolulu reached Nippon, an emigration agency named Desplear & Gowy, of Kobe, chartered the steamer Woolwich, which is now at Yokohama, loading a cargo of Coolies for this port and Vancouver, and she is expected to carry about 800.

HOSPITAL ENQUIRY

Dr. Atherton Made Specific Charge Against the Matron Accusing Her of Partiality to a Certain Physician

It was well towards midnight last night when the Hospital trustees concluded their session. The meeting was called to investigate certain prevailing rumours reflecting upon the internal management of the institution, in which the general public feel a deep interest. There was some delay in beginning the meeting owing to the absence of some of the trustees. Shortly before eight o'clock Mr. A. H. F. Randolph was called to the chair, in the absence of Senator Thompson, who was out of town. However, upon the arrival of the train from St. John, Mr. Thompson was driven direct to the hospital, and took the chair. The other gentlemen present included Mr. J. H. Barry, Mr. Tennant, Dr. VanWart, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Randolph as above, and the secretary treasurer.

DOOR THROWN OPEN

The members of the medical staff were invited to be present and asked to criticize the internal management of the hospital, or make any complaints or charges, with the assurance that the trustees would thoroughly investigate the same.

Among the medical gentlemen who accepted the invitation of the trustees were Dr. Bridges, Dr. Atherton, Dr. G. J. McNally and Dr. Weaver. Dr. VanWart was there in the capacity of medical trustee.

Chairman Randolph explained the object of the meeting and welcomed the members of the medical staff. He thought the medical staff would naturally feel as warm an interest in the welfare of the hospital as the trustees, and felt the one object of the joint meeting must be to increase the usefulness of the institution.

Dr. Bridges was then asked if he had any complaint to make respecting the management of the hospital, or in his experience if he felt like suggesting any changes.

In reply the Doctor said he had no fault to find in regard to the treatment accorded him, and did not know the nature of the trouble spoken of as he had not been at any previous meeting. He is not personally aware of any special trouble with the management, but there had been considerable talk of friction which he himself had frequently heard.

DR. ATHERTON'S CHARGES

In response to the invitation of the chair Dr. Atherton said he believed there was ground for complaint with the internal management of the hospital. There is no doubt the matron is inclined to show favor to one member of the staff. Different patients have told him that she frequently recommends her favorite. For some time he did not hear these reports, but recently they have again come to the surface. Another cause for complaint is that discrimination has been manifested against him when the hospital has been full. The matron could not find a place for his patient, but at same time could quickly provide a cot for a particular physician. Recently while the matron was absent on vacation two patients arrived, one of them did not know any physician and asked advice as to best doctor. Miss Kirk, who was in charge, would not recommend any physician. Finally this patient came to him, and one of the employees afterward told him if the matron had been home he wouldn't have had either patient. Further he had been given to understand that the nurses themselves, for the sake of peace, felt bound to employ this particular physician when ill.

At this juncture the trustees felt sufficient had been said to warrant a careful investigation, and in fairness to the matron, she was invited to be present and hear all that was said. The Matron now entered and the chairman explained the substance of statements already made, and informed her she would be offered every opportunity for explanation and defense.

COMMON TALK

Dr. McNally was asked if he had and complaint to make or any observations re the management. In reply he said he had nothing in the nature of a charge against anybody. The statements made by Dr. Atherton are common talk among the staff. He believed a number of patients enter the hospital without any preference for a doctor, and it is in the power of the matron to influence such; none of that class were ever sent to him. He had not always been satisfied with the food dispensing; if he wanted broth or oysters they were not easily within reach.

Dr. Weaver was then invited to make any statement he wished. He had no fault to find so far as he was aware no discrimination was ever exercised against him, and he felt he was fairly treated. He recalled one instance where he was called to the hospital to treat a patient. He

wanted some extra food or delicacy for a patient when it was not easily obtained. While speaking of nurses Dr. Bridges said one of them told him it was necessary to have a certain doctor to keep in favor.

MATRON EXPLAINS

Miss McCallum, the Matron, was now given an opportunity to explain her position. She said her whole time and thought had been given to the hospital, and in no single instance had she worked against any doctor on the staff. She was aware that certain physicians had repeatedly spoken unfairly of her and had found fault with her management, and in certain instances had insinuated that she had discriminated in favor of a certain physician. Moreover, she had heard remarks of this character. She had courted investigation, and always claimed she was blessed with common sense to prevent her from doing any underhand work of that character. She asked for some specific charge, something she could face.

A DEFINITE CHARGE

Dr. Atherton then charged that when he wanted a patient (named him) admitted, she said hospital was full, but another physician got a patient in immediately afterwards. She claimed a patient was placed in a room with another because some doctor was in charge; that she considered it not feasible or wise to put Dr. Atherton's patient in a room where another physician was treating a case—especially one being a clean case the other a septic case. She also explained the removal of a ward patient to a room, which caused her considerable complaint from another physician when she thought she was moving Dr. Atherton's patient.

Dr. Atherton then cited the case of another patient who told him that Miss McCallum in conversation spoke of the cleverness of a certain physician in cases of appendicitis. She may have spoken of such an incident for she has probably said that while all the members of the staff had treated appendicitis that Dr. Atherton and Dr. VanWart have treated the largest number of cases. This patient of Dr. Atherton's told him that she said Dr. VanWart was great on appendicitis.

The Matron spoke warmly of mean statements said to have been made about her visit to a clergyman's house in Gibson, that she had offered to personally assist if a certain physician was employed. She claimed that she had been grossly maligned, and that there was not a shadow of truth in it.

During the progress of the statements the chairman, Mr. Barry and other trustees interjected questions with a desire to elicit fullest information. In speaking in reply to medical care for nurses, she declared that not in the slightest way did she ever try to influence a nurse in respect to any physician. A nurse frequently was treated by a physician before she (the Matron) ever knew she was ill.

MISS KIRK'S EVIDENCE

Miss Kirk, superintendent of nurses, was next called, and she said she did not understand why she was called. She always got along well and was now about to leave the institution.

The president explained that the trustees all very much regretted to receive her resignation, and wished her well. In the interests of the hospital he felt sure if she knew a reason for change in plans, or any cause that interfered with the success of the institution, she would assist the trustees in applying a remedy.

Miss Kirk then said she knew of no instance of discrimination on part of the Matron. No patient had ever told her of such act. She thought the house needed more help. There should be a cook, and assistant cook and three or four maids. The food so far as her experience goes, compares favorably with that of any other hospital. Dr. Atherton asked her about the physician she had attending her when a graduate nurse, and how she procured him. In reply she said she was ill in the Dow wing, and asked the Matron to send to her the first doctor who arrived in the morning. The Matron sent Dr. VanWart, but Dr. Atherton was then in the house, but Matron didn't know it.

It being nearly midnight the meeting was adjourned until Monday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

Before leaving the different trustees took leave of Miss Kirk, who shortly goes to Sherbrooke, Que.

Put a little salt-peter in the water you use for your bouquets and the flowers will live for a fortnight.