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DAILY HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 1907

ADVICE FOR TORIES

The Montreal Herald observes: "The extreme of politeness with which Mr. Pugsley overwhelms those who say nasty things to him goes far to account for the reputation he brought with him from the New Brunswick field. He is so mighty polite it is just possible to suspect considerable hitting power in reserve."

Our Montreal contemporary seems to have some inkling of the fighting force behind Dr. Pugsley's pleasant exterior, and it will not be well for his critics to monkey too much with him.

The Minister of Public Works is always a gentleman. He was born that way and his culture and intimate association with men of his class have deepened his sense of what is due from one gentleman to another. His sense of fair play, of decency in debate, of respect for the feeling of others have made Dr. Pugsley's public utterances and his relations with his friends and associates, personal and political pleasant to recall.

Seldom have harsh words been extorted from him, even under great provocation, but there have been times when aroused by the manifest malevolence and maliciousness of attack from his political opponents. Dr. Pugsley has risen to the occasion of meeting offensive aggression with retorts which, while clothed in the most discreet and gentlemanly language, have cut deep and closed the mouths of those who courted and deserved denunciation.

Such an occasion arose in the budget debate in the legislature during the session of 1906, when Dr. Pugsley was unfairly attacked by Mr. Grimmer on the former's alleged overcharge for services as attorney-general. Mr. Grimmer was sorry he ever made that attack. It was based on absolute misstatements as Dr. Pugsley successfully proved, and it was no wonder that in replying he grew unusually warm and characterized Mr. Grimmer's attitude and speech as they deserved.

Mr. Grimmer and other Tory barnstormers, notably Mr. Harry McLeod, are repeating the same misrepresentations in the present campaign, behind Dr. Pugsley's back, but neither of them would dare to say in the presence of the minister of public works what they are proclaiming in his absence.

Some day, when the fight waxes hotter, we shall take occasion to republish Dr. Pugsley's speech in reply to the accusations made against him with respect to his charges for services when attorney-general, but in the meantime we submit a short extract from his speech in the budget debate following Mr. Grimmer's attack, and we submit that the Montreal Herald's inference that Dr. Pugsley is able to take care of himself in debate, even when it comes to "rough house," and that behind the pleasant exterior of the minister of public works there is a reserve force well under control, yet dangerous to his political opponents if called to action, is a fair inference as will be proved before the present session of parliament closes.

Dr. Pugsley will not waste words on such an insignificant demagogue as Mr. Bennett, whom the minister, with a few withering sentences so completely silenced a few days ago, but the Tory leaders who may summon sufficient courage to attack him will discover the strength, the energy, the eloquence and force in debate of the popular and talented New Brunswick member of the cabinet.

But to the reply which Dr. Pugsley made to the unfortunate Mr. Grimmer in the legislature.

"No parliamentary language is strong enough," said Dr. Pugsley, on that occasion, "to describe a man who circulates statements in regard to a political opponent which he knows to be false, but if a man outside of the walls of this house said such things I would characterize him as a liar, and if he persisted in his statement when shown the truth, I would brand him as a wilful and malicious liar. The men who have made these statements so unjustifiable and so injurious to me should have had in mind the lines of that great genius, Shakespeare, when he says:

"Who steals my purse steals trash,
'Tis something, nothing, 'twas mine,
'Tis his, and has been slaves to thousands,
But he who filches from me, my good name,
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
Doth make me poor indeed."

"Many of the gentlemen who have made these charges attend their churches Sunday after Sunday, and hear recited there the divine command, 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor,' yet they go on from day to day repeating these statements."

Mr. Grimmer never cared to repeat his statements, nor did any of his associates have the courage to further attack Dr. Pugsley until they were behind his back, and safe from a rejoinder. These little men, however, at the cross roads school houses will return to the attack much as little curs nip and bite at the huge mastiff who strides on regardless of his insignificant enemies.

A little more snow would make things go smoothly during the Christmas season.

THAT EXPLODED CHARGE

In its issue of Dec. 12 last, the local Tory organ announced that Mr. Harry McLeod had made the startling discovery that the lands purchased by the government from the New Brunswick Railway company were under mortgage to a trust company.

The Herald subsequently pointed out that Dr. Pugsley announced in the legislature last session that there was a mortgage on the lands, and it was to relieve the purchased lands of the encumbrance that legislation was passed.

Mr. McLeod did not know of the act passed to this end or of Dr. Pugsley having mentioned the mortgage until he saw the facts published in the Herald from the official records. Then Mr. McLeod felt very foolish, his friends worried him about his bad break, the leading newspapers of his own party absolutely ignored his alleged great discovery, and now Mr. McLeod is sorry that he permitted himself to be stupefied by Mr. Titus Carter.

The local Tory organ attempts to let Mr. McLeod down with the statement that he knew about Dr. Pugsley's mention of the mortgage all the time, and of the act passed to relieve the lands of the encumbrance, but of course that is all false.

If he knew, it was dishonest to make the charge without mentioning the other matters, the publication of which in these columns has so completely shown up the utter falsity of the latest Tory roorback, and left Mr. McLeod in an unenviable position. Hereafter the public will attach little if any credence to the charges which Mr. McLeod may make against his political opponents.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Mr. Harry McLeod's land scandal has been exploded with serious results to himself.

Toronto Globe: The Mail and Empire boasts of Mr. Fowler's spying on the private life of Mr. Emmerson. It is to be hoped when Mr. Fowler's own life is dissected that he will come off no worse.

Mr. Borden challenges Sir Wilfrid Laurier to make a tour of the west with him, and discuss scandals, but the Tory leader was careful not to ask Dr. Pugsley for further information about the Tory corruption fund, or to move for a commission of enquiry. Mr. Borden would cut a small figure in joint debate with the Premier throughout the country, and Sir Wilfrid may well spare him the humiliation such an encounter would entail on the Tory leader.

Dr. William Bayard of St. John, the oldest practising physician in Canada, a gentleman who ranked very high in his profession, and was universally esteemed for his high character and great attainments, passed away at his home Tuesday evening, at the great age of ninety-three years. The deceased gentleman was a native of Kentville, N. S., the son of a physician, graduated at Edinburgh University, and has practised in St. John nearly seventy years.

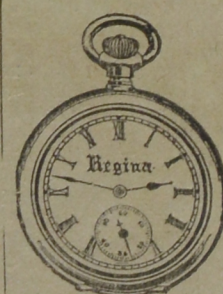
The domestic water question is a live one with the residents of Westmount, a fashionable Montreal suburb, and a correspondent writing to the Montreal Herald expresses the opinion that "no settlement of the water question that does not include filtration will be satisfactory." He adds that "no large city on either side of the Atlantic has been able to get safe water without filtering it. Figures from scores of cities show that when this is done, enteric fever is of a negligible quantity." Fredericton has filtration and the character of the water is much improved, and fever has almost entirely disappeared.

FOWLER'S

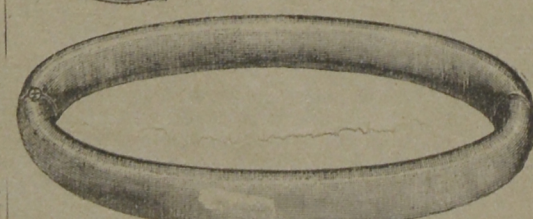
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