

DR. PUGSLEY'S DEFENCE.

Mr. Hazen, Mr. Macinerney and the Sun are making Hon. Dr. Pugsley an especial target for their assaults, and one of the charges which they bring against him is that last year he cost the province \$9,000. This matter was all threshed out in the legislature last winter, and Dr. Pugsley's effective answer drove the opposition into a corner and satisfied the House and country that the Attorney General had been very much misrepresented and belied. However the opposition orators and their irresponsible newspapers continue to repeat the charge, and the best reply to it is to reproduce, as we have pleasure in doing below, that portion of Dr. Pugsley's address in the budget debate in which he frankly and fully answered the accusations against him:

"My honorable friend from Carleton made many references to myself and charged that I had received from the province the sum of \$10,596 in one year. Let us take up some of those items and examine them. He charges that I received \$400 in the case of Dunn against the King and also a large sum from the eastern extension claim. It has never been regarded as a part of the duty of the attorney general to attend the trial of civil cases in the interests of the crown. In the case of the Maritime Bank where some \$30,000 was involved Mr. Blair acted for the Province. He was then attorney general and no man was ever ready to work harder for the Province than he, but when it came to a civil case even he did not consider that it was a part of his duty to attend to it without being paid for his services. He went to England to argue the case and received for that work a large fee. That was a good precedent; another was supplied by the school bill case for which the Hon. Mr. King, who was then attorney general received \$3,000. Therefore when I was asked to attend to the case of Dunn versus the King I thought I should be paid for the work. The case was a very important one. Dunn was the assignee of Tibbits, and the claim was for stumpage dues and amounted altogether to \$88,000. Nominally the suit was against the government of Canada, but if it had gone against us it would have been charged to us and the amount of the verdict taken out of our subsidy. When it came up before the Supreme court of Canada the chief justice said that the Province of New Brunswick should be represented. I looked into the case very thoroughly and for preliminary expenses I drew \$200. After doing some more work upon it I drew \$200 more, and fearing that I might not be able to attend to argue the case at Ottawa I employed Mr. White and he argued the case and obtained a judgment for the province. I paid Mr. White's fee of \$350 out of my own pocket so that only \$50 was left to myself. It does seem to me that before making this charge my hon. friend might have asked me about this matter.

Then I am charged with \$80 for expenses to Halifax. Why should that sum be charged against me. The premier and myself went to Halifax to consult with the government of Nova Scotia on the fisheries question, the Quebec resolutions, the agricultural college and other matters, and this sum went to pay our hotel expenses. Other similar delegations have cost the province hundreds of dollars while what we received barely paid our expenses.

Then I am charged with obtaining \$2,016 for settling succession duties. A considerable part of this work was done by Hon. A. S. White and Hon. Mr. Emmerson, and Hon. Mr. McKeown and Mr. Carvell and they were all paid for what they did. Then there was a refund to Mr. Regan of \$78, a refund to Julia McGee of \$175.

The member for Carleton ought to have asked for information before making this charge, either by asking me personally or by an address, and yet without the slightest rhyme or reason he charges me with

receiving this whole sum. That is no way to treat a public man, and when he appeals to the public he should be careful to have the facts fairly and truthfully presented.

With regard to the succession duties, let me say that the labor performed is far greater than most persons imagine. The attorney general has to see that the province is not deprived of its proper dues. I have to keep constantly on the alert. Let me mention a case. Four years before I became attorney general, an estate had been valued so low as to escape the succession duties. The matter had passed the probate judge and the former attorney general. I thought the estate had been undervalued and took the matter up and obtained \$700 for the province.

With regard to the Eastern extension claim, I am surprised at the leader of the opposition taking exception to the amount paid, after hearing the explanations of the premier that it was for services extending over four years. It also included travelling expenses for myself and the premier during that period, including many visits to Ottawa. The claim was a large one and it was not a simple matter. For the thirteen years from 1884 to 1896 conservative governments all refused to recognize it. When the present government came into power we felt renewed hope, but even Mr. Blair himself had very little hope that we would get more than \$110,000 and he told us so and advised us to take that sum. The case was this. In 1868 the Dominion government had paid to the Province \$250,000 for Eastern extension when they ought to have paid \$400,000 and they did not pay the balance till 1884. Our contention was that as they had paid the principal they ought to pay the interest, which would be \$110,000. It requires a good deal of skill to raise a claim from \$110,000 to \$275,000. The Dominion government had entrusted their case to Mr. Newcomb, deputy minister of justice, who had been strongly opposed to the claim. We put forward the contention that as a result of their action they had kept back from us \$7,500 a year, paying every half year for interest, and that when this interest became due it should be regarded as principal. We succeeded in getting a banker on the arbitration, and bankers are great people for interest, so the interest was compounded, \$110,000 added and the claim allowed. I was retained in this case in 1898 before I was even a member of this House and I gave it my best attention. The case was presented in a manner that received praise from the gentlemen representing Nova Scotia and I would like the leader of the opposition to read this case. I would like to know of any company or private individual having a claim of nearly \$300,000, which had been pressed unsuccessfully for 20 years, that would not be willing to pay \$20,000 to receive this money. The government was charged no more than a private individual would have to pay for my services. When I was young I would have been willing to work for \$5 or \$10 a day, but I have spent more than twenty years studying my profession and my services now command \$80, \$90 or \$75 per day. Not long ago I tried a case in this city against my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition; it lasted five or six days and I won it for my client and he paid me \$500. Certainly it was better for a man to pay \$500 to win an important case than half that sum to lose it. There is a great difference whether you win or lose. Of the sum received on the Eastern extension claim by me \$2,500 was paid for actual expenses so that the balance amounted to some \$2,700, or about \$700 a year. That certainly is not an excessive reward for success in a case of such magnitude. The leader of the opposition spoke of my receiving \$425 for services in the bridge investigation. These services were performed in the year 1900 and were of an unusual character. I charged just the same of Dr. Stockton, \$50 a day, and the difference in our claim is because I went

twice to Montreal and Ottawa for the purpose of breaking down a false testimony of the men of the Dominion Bridge Company. In regard to the charge of \$200 for travelling expenses, that money certainly did not go into my pockets, but into the pockets of the hotel keepers, and it certainly was very much less than I actually expended."

President Roosevelt and his cabinet are interesting themselves in the settlement of the coal strike, and have arranged a conference with the mine owners and the head of the labor unions.

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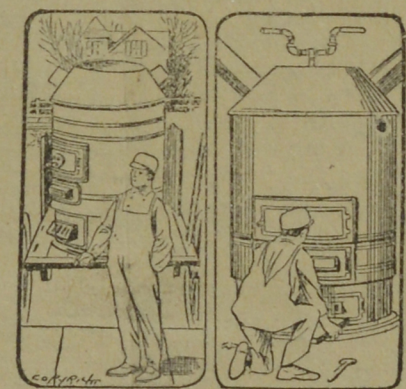
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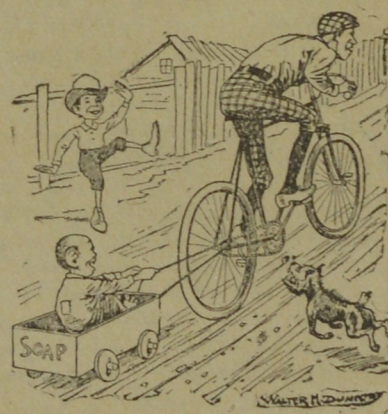
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