

## WAS PARTIZAN AND FALSE.

### Central Railway Report Badly Shattered by Hon. Dr. Pugsley.

#### Array of Facts to Show that Commissioners' Finding Was Contrary to the Evidence.

The following extracts from the great speech of Hon. Dr. Pugsley in the House of Commons on the Central Railway charges will be read with interest in this section. The Minister in opening his remarks, said:

Mr. Speaker, while Sir, I am sorry that matters relating to what may be called the provincial sphere of politics, with which I was connected some years ago, should engage so much of the attention of this House today, yet for myself, Sir, I am glad that the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Crothers) has brought the matter before the house, because this report, to which he has referred, has been published broadcast in the newspapers and the fact of his bringing the matter before parliament today gives me an opportunity of directing the attention of the House and of the country to it.

I think, Sir, that before I take my seat I will be able to show that not only is this report one which ought not to be acted upon by men who desire to do justice but that it is a report which, within the pages of the report itself, is discredited, shown to be of a partizan character, and wholly unreliable.

When I tell you and when I tell this House that these commissioners, while attempting to give a statement of the interest that was expended by this company from the commencement of this transaction in 1901 down to the time when the commissioners, who had been appointed by the previous government, went out of office on the 31st of March, 1908, only included two items of interest, one the interest upon the cost of new line of railway during its construction and limited to the month of January, 1904, and another item beginning upon the 1st of July, 1905, and closing upon the 31st of March, 1905, when I tell you that these are the only two items of interest which they allow and which amount in themselves to, in the vicinity of \$5,000 more than the total interest which they allow; when I tell you that they leave out of this account every dollar of interest upon the total expenditure between the 1st of January, 1904, and the first day of July, 1905, a period of eighteen months, and when I tell you, further, that they absolutely leave out of their calculation every dollar of interest upon the \$180,000 which was paid for the Central Railway upon the \$77,000 of improvements which were made upon the Central Railway; upon the loss in operating, extending over a number of years, and upon other amounts, and that they have absolutely omitted these from their account and statement of interest which they give you, I think you will be prepared to accept the statement which I shall make that this report is utterly unworthy of the consideration of any man who desires to see justice shown to a public man.

Without going farther and dealing with other matters let me turn now and let the hon. member for Elgin turn, if he wants to be fair.

A member—He has gone out.

DISHONEST AND PARTIZAN.

I think he ought to remain here to hear the statement which I am to make, because I am satisfied that it will convince even him that this report, so far from having been prepared by an honest and non-partizan commission, so far from being a judicial report, has been prepared by a partizan counsel, who has advised these commissioners in regard to it, and who was instrumental in having it drawn up.

My hon. friend has said that upon this report and without considering whether it is true or false, without considering whether or not there is evidence to support it and to justify these commissioners in making it, that I as minister of public works ought to resign my seat. He quotes a statement of Mr. Fisher in the British parliament that when a charge is made against him he felt it his duty to resign. But in that case Mr. Fisher said:

"I accept the judgment of the tribunal in which I have confidence and therefore I resign my seat."

But, Sir, am I to accept the judgment of a partizan tribunal, a tribunal appointed not to inquire into the truth, but a tribunal appointed to find out upon which a charge might be made against me, in order that the wishes of these gentlemen who instituted these proceedings might be carried out, and whose "typographical errors," as have been called to my attention, are already a joke throughout this country.

After a further reference to the course taken by Mr. Crothers, the Minister said:

Well, Sir, while I am prepared to fight my enemies, and I have some, I am not prepared to lie down and let them crawl over me. For twenty-four years I have fought them before the people of my native province, and whenever I have appealed to the people in my province I have never appealed in vain.

I said that these commissioners had absolutely omitted the interest upon this whole amount of indebtedness for a period of a year and a half. I stated also that they had omitted the interest upon all the amounts which were paid for the Central railway, and the amounts which were disbursed for the improvement and operation of that railway, and I am going to prove it to you.

At page 23 of the report referring to the cost of the fifteen mile section between Chipman and the coal fields of Minto and the branches to the various coal mines, it says:

"There is included in the above item of cost \$316,626.23. The cost of the rolling stock, \$26,800, and we have included in the item of interest in statement (C) the amount of interest which he fixed at \$28,234.63."

That is Mr. Shannon fixed the interest at that amount. Then on page 23 it says:

Mr. Lennox—One moment. The honorable gentleman did not finish the sentence, and it is very important. Mr. Pugsley—The end of the sentence is: "Both of which Mr. Shannon omitted, from his statement of cost," and it is not important at all.

#### READY FOR THE FRAY.

Mr. Pugsley—At page 23 the commissioners say:

"And so far as the evidence shows, they were paid, they are included in statement (C). Mr. Pugsley, who in his statement of cost, adopts Mr. Shannon's statement of interest during construction, namely, \$28,234.63."

THAT INTEREST CHARGE.

That statement of interest was made by Mr. Shannon, who was the accountant of the department of railways in connection with the contention which the railway company was making that the interest during construction of the new line should be added to capital, should form a part of the cost of construction, and therefore should be considered by the department of railways upon the question of whether they should pay the increased subsidy or not. Now, then, the commissioners say they adopt that statement of \$28,234.63 the interest upon the cost of construction of the new line, and they say it for two reasons. They say that Mr. Sharpe, the accountant, who made the interest at \$33,000, had made it too large, and they take Mr. Shannon's statement which would be up to the time of the completion on Jan. 1, 1904. They adopt Mr. Shannon's interest for that reason, and they adopt it also—

R. L. Borden—I thought the language of the report was that the honorable gentleman himself adopted it.

Mr. Pugsley—Yes. Their other reason, which I was about to state, is that they say they adopted it because Mr. Pugsley himself adopted it at the time. When I adopted it was when I was urging the favorable consideration of the company's claim before the department of railways, putting forward that Mr. Shannon himself had found that the interest upon the cost of construction amounted to \$28,234 and I urged that there was no other account to which it could be charged, that the interest during construction should be properly added to the cost and that therefore this should be taken into consideration by the department of railways.

Now, we start there with the amount admitted by the commissioners and found by Mr. Shannon to be the interest upon the cost of construction of the fifteen mile section and branches to the 1st of January, 1904, when the road was substantially completed or at all events I think the main line was completed. Then if you turn to pages 79 and 80 of this report you will find they give a statement of the moneys received and the moneys paid out in connection with the railways and branches since taken over by the province on the 1st of July, 1905. Let me read this again so that there may be no misunderstanding:

"Moneys received and moneys paid out in connection with the railways and branches since taken over by the province, July 1, 1905."

"Interest on loans and coupons, \$68,770.65."

It is more than that; it is evidence of a reckless desire to injure me and other members of the government in which I occupied the position of attorney-general.

It is evidence of the fact that they thought that if they could get launched on a report sufficiently strong they might accomplish the mission for which they were appointed—bring about my resignation—and leave me afterwards to vindicate myself as best I could before the people of this country.

It is evident that these commissioners did not care whether they did justice or a gross injustice, because, in order to do justice it is absolutely essential that the report should be accurate and should show with as much certainty as possible what were the receipts and expenditures of this company.

That these commissioners and those advising them were actuated by partizan motives I will show by another fact. It is this that the published reports of the province of New Brunswick, I think the report of the auditor-general for the year 1908, will show that in the month of October last, just before the general election, these commissioners employed Mr. Dunlap, a chartered accountant of the city of Montreal, and brought him down to St. John for the purpose of going into these accounts and he made up a statement for them, and that statement was published by H. A. Powell, the solicitor and counsel (Continued on fourth page)

THEIR OWN REPORT CONDEMNS THEM.

Now, you add together the \$28,234 which they say was the interest upon the cost of construction of the new line to the month of January, 1904, and the \$68,770 which they say was expended in interest subsequent to the 1st of July, 1905, and you get nearly \$97,000 of interest. And yet, Sir, upon page 76 of this report these commissioners, in arriving at this shortage put in the total amount of interest over the whole period and upon all the expenditures of company at \$92,000, being \$5,000 less than the two items of interest to which I have called your attention. Is that another typographical error? Then, if you turn back a little bit further in the report you will find that in giving a statement with regard to some moneys which were due to the People's Bank at Fredericton alone they show—there that up to the 1st of January there was a note due to the People's Bank of New Brunswick amounting to \$169,314.94, and that interest charges to October 14, 1905, brought the total up to \$176,611.53, or interest of about \$7,000 which was paid to the People's Bank of New Brunswick subsequent to the 1st of July, and October. They have left that out of the account altogether as well. And as I have said there is a total interest upon the cost of the new line of \$316,000 which they find to be correct, upon the \$180,000 expended for the purpose of the Central Railway, upon the improvements of \$77,000 which was placed upon the Central Railway according to the report of these commissioners, and they leave all of the interest upon that large amount out for a period of eighteen months, during a portion of which period, as the commissioners themselves say, the company was paying interest at a rate of from 6 1/2 per cent to 7 per cent. And in addition to that they leave out, prior to the 1st of January, 1904, all the interest upon the cost of the Central and upon the improvements which were made to the Central.

IGNORER INTEREST CHARGES.

When I tell this house that there would be interest on the cost of the Central railway amounting to \$180,000 interest on the improvements amounting to \$77,000 and upwards, interest on loss of operation amounting to some \$19,000; interest upon some of the rolling stock which was not added to the cost of construction, and interest on other expenditures in connection with the preliminary work which the company did with a view to carrying on mining operations, they will see—and when, as the commissioners themselves say, in many cases interest at the rate of 8 1/2 and a half or seven per cent, was necessarily paid to the banks—they will see to what a large amount the interest would necessarily run up, and how necessary it was for these commissioners, if they wanted to give an accurate statement of the receipts and disbursements, to have a proper interest account made up.

That is itself evidence of the gross carelessness on the part of these commissioners.

RECKLESS FINDINGS.

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\$10.00 Men's This Spring Coats special \$5.50. \$18.00 Men's Blk. Silk Faced Spring Coat \$10.00. \$12.00 Men's Latest Style Suits, Saturday \$7.75. 75c Men's Fancy Shirts special Saturday for 49c. 55c Boy's Overalls 3 to 12 years for 39c. 55c Boy's Pretty Soft Shirts for 39c. \$1.00 and \$1.50 Extra Strong Boy's Pants Saturday 60c. Every Mother should buy a Pair for Her Boy as it is a Snap. \$6.50 and \$7.50 Boy's Suits special for \$4.15. Enormous Bargains in Men's Working and Dress Pants special reductions for Saturday only. This Spring's Style Hats, Caps slaughtered To-morrow.

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#### TWO EXCITED POLICEMEN

Belfast Cops Were So Flustered That They Forgot Their Prisoner.

An amusing story lies behind an announcement made in Belfast that the Inspector-General of the Irish Constabulary has ordered disciplinary measures to be taken against two members of the force who were recently instructed to take a prisoner from Belfast to Londonderry.

At a junction en route, where the train divides into three portions, the two policemen, having some few minutes to wait, left their third-class compartment and proceeded to the waiting-room with their prisoner.

The officers waited too long, and suddenly realized this when they saw the Londonderry section of the train moving off. They rushed for the train and managed to jump into one of the moving carriages, but left their prisoner standing in amazement on the platform.

The prisoner found himself in a strange place without a coin in his pocket. He did not take advantage of the absence of his escort, but went to the nearest police station. He was given a good dinner, and waited for his escort to return. The two officers, discovering their mistake when they were in the train, got out at the first station and came back. They found their prisoner in the police station, where he had been waiting for some hours, and all went on to Londonderry by a later train.

#### A Short Verse.

An Englishman named Thomas Thorp died, leaving his fortune to a poor relative on condition that a headstone, with the name of the said Thomas Thorp and a verse of poetry, be erected over the grave. Costing so much a word to chisel letters on the stone, the poor relative ordered that the poetry should be brief. Upon his refusal to approve, on account of their length, the lines

Here lies the corp  
Of Thomas Thorp  
the following was finally ordered and accepted:

Thorp's  
Corpse.

#### The Gingerbread Tree.

There is a species of palm, growing to a height of from twenty-five to thirty feet, in Egypt, Arabia, Abyssinia and Nubia which produces its fruit in long clusters, each containing from 100 to 200. These fruits are of an irregular form, of a rich yellowish brown color and are beautifully polished. In upper Egypt they form part of the food of the poorer classes of inhabitants, the part eaten being the fibrous, mealy husk, which tastes almost exactly like gingerbread, whence the popular name of gingerbread tree in Egypt. *Euphorbia thebaica* is the botanical name of this palm.

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Have your wheel repaired now

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We wish to announce to our numerous customers and the public that we are sole agents for the Semi-ready clothing and we have a complete line of these goods in stock.

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It takes a person that has had or is subject to headaches to describe the suffering which attends them.

The majority of cases are caused by constipation and dyspepsia. The dull throbbings, the intense pain, sometimes in one part, sometimes in another, and then over the whole head, varying in its severity by the cause which brings it on, purely indicates that there is something the matter with the stomach or bowels. To the fact that Burdock Blood Bitters reaches every part of the system is due its success in relieving and permanently curing headache. It has proven a specific for the malady in all its forms.

It takes a person that has had or is subject to headaches to describe the suffering which attends them.

I can safely recommend it to all."

Mrs. Allison E. Brown, Sumnerfield, N.B., writes:—

"I have been troubled with Constipation and Headaches for a long time. After trying different doctors to no effect, a friend asked me to try Burdock Blood Bitters. I find I am completely cured after taking three bottles."

CONSTIPATION AND HEADACHES.