The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 17, 1908

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No deals!
"The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwine, The Maple Leaf forever."

Since he became St. John's representative at Ottawa, Hon. Dr. Pugsley has secured $730,000 in appropriations for work in this harbor, apart from the work of the dredge Fielding.

KEEP TO THE FACTS

Let us keep the record clear with regard to that dredging contract.

In 1905 there was a persistent demand on the part of the citizens of St. John that dredging operations be carried on at once in this harbor. The citizens would brook no delay. The government yielded to the demand and called for tenders. Hon. Mr. Hyman was minister of public works. Hon. Dr. Pugsley was not in parliament. Two tenders for the dredging were received. One was from a Toronto firm and the other was from Mr. Mayes The tender of the latter was much the lowest, but neither of the tenderers had a dredge registered in Canada, and therefore neither was awarded the contract. The clamor from St. John continued. The department finally decided to waive the registration, as there was then no suitable dredge available in Canada. Tenders were again called for and the same two tenderers were heard from. Mr. Mayes had in the mentime advanced the price five cents per yard. Whether the minister observed this or not there is no evidence, but he had two tenders before him, and that of Mr. Mayes was still far below that of the Toronto firm. St. John was still clamoring to have the work done. The minister accepted the lowest tender and the work was begun.

These are the facts as shown by the public records. Now Mr. Mayes makes the charge that he increased his price in order to give Mr. George McAvity over $35,000, for which he received no adequate return. He now sues for return of the money. What does he intend to do with it? Will he return it to the department? If not he must consider that 55 cents per yard was only a fair price for the work. If that is his view he cannot bring any charge against the department of public works, which accepted the lowest tender and gave the citizens of St. John the dredging for which they clamored, and which was a vital necessity to the progress of the port. Moreover, Mr. McAvity states that he will establish in the courts that his agreement with Mr. Mayes was a proper business arrangement.

A determined effort is being made to convict the department of public works with knowledge of and consent to an immoral transaction, and to couple with it the name of Dr. Pugsley, who was not even in parliament at the time. This effort will fail. The more the matter is probed the plainer it becomes that Dr. Pugsley had no part in the affair in 1905 and received no money from Mr. Mayes in 1907; while as minister of public works he held Mr. Mayes to his contract and sternly resisted all attempts at blackmail.

This is the essential fact for the electors to note in the present campaign, and the more grossly the minister is assailed the more ardently his friends should rally to his support.

TRUE TO HIS TRUST

If a man's record in office may be taken as the basis of judgment, then the Hon. Dr. Pugsley as minister of public works has established his claim to public confidence and to a renewal of public support.

In the face of recent revelations there will be much more sympathy hereafter for the man who stands between contractors and the public chest.

Dr. Pugsley has been put to the test in this regard, and the official documents are in evidence to prove that he resisted the pressure brought to bear upon him.

There will be a general revulsion of feeling even among his strong political opponents in favor of the minister because of the firmness which he displayed in this whole matter. If ever a man had thrown in his path as a minister a tempting inducement to secure at the expense of his political honor a large campaign fund Dr. Pugsley was that man He spurned the bribe, challenged the threatened exposure, and stood to his guns.

That is the kind of man Canada needs as minister of public works.

NAUSEATING CAMPAIGN

There will be a general feeling of relief in St. John when the election campaign is over. It has engendered a savage bitterness that is without parallel in the history of any election since confederation. Never has there been such a concerted and venemous attack upon the reputation of any public man in St. John as that of which the Hon. Dr. Pugsley is the subject. The attack by its very virulence has caused a reaction in favor of the minister, and there is no doubt whatever of his triumphant vindication. It would be charitable to believe that some of his assailants have really convinced themselves that there is some ground for their assertions, but there are others who care nothing about the truth or falsity of these statements so long as they injure the minister. There is the more reason that his friends should work with more determined zeal in his behalf during the few days which remain before polling day. Any man who stands for decency and fair play in politics should not only vote for Pugsley and Pender but exert his influence among his friends and acquaintances, that they, too, may express at the polling booth their abhorrence of the tactics pursued by the opposition in this campaign.

There is always some danger that during a campaign petty local or sectional issues will obscure in some minds the larger considerations which are involved in the choice of the men who will represent the constituency. St. John cannot afford at this critical time in its history as a national port to lose sight of the fact that it needs at Ottawa the most influential representatives available. These are found in the Liberal candidates, for the government will be sustained, beyond the shadow of a doubt, and St. John would sacrifice its own best interests if it failed to elect these candidates.

Dr. Daniel ridicules the proposals of Dr. Pugsley with regard to Work in Courtenay Bay. Does St. John want the pessimist or the man who does things for the port?

During the past few years the port of St. John has received more attention from the federal government than during the period of Conservative rule. With a representative in the government who has already committed his party to a great policy of development of this national port the work will go on rapidly. If he were defeated and Dr. MacRae sent up to take a seat in opposition to the government, the port would lose its most powerful advocate. Think it over.

Mr. Mayes attempts to discredit the statements made by Mr. Osman. He does this in a letter to the Globe. On the one hand we have Mr. Mayes. On the other we have the minister of public works, Mr. George McAvity, Mr. John E. Moore, Mr. F. W. Holt, Mr. Percy W. Thomson and Hon. C. J. Osman. There is other confirmatory evidence in support of the statements of the last named gentleman.

The lovers of fair play will rally around the man who has been maligned and slandered as no other man has been in a political campaign in this province. That man is the Hon. Dr. Pugsley.

The Conservatives are promising better times as a lure for votes. Upon what is the promise based? They are opposed to a policy of progress.

Mr. James Pender, a practical business man, gives good business reasons for supporting the Liberal government.

The Liberal party executive have declared for a clean election in this constituency.

The government will be sustained. Does St. John want to be in opposition?

Stores open till 11 p.m. St. John, Oct. 17th, 1908.

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THE VITAL ISSUE

The citizen of St. John have a very vital interest in the campaign which closes on Oct. 26th.

Canada has been making enormous strides during the past decade. The great west is being peopled, railways are being constructed with great rapidity, new areas are being opened up, the agricultural production of the country is increasing by leaps and bounds, the volume of trade is growing in proportion, and the world's gaze is turned in admiration upon this new giant of the west.

With the growth of the country, St. John, as one of the great national ports, and the chief winter freight port of the whole country is deeply concerned. Men of all parties, and especially men connected with the great transportation companies, who know what is doing and to be done in the great western country, tell us that the time is not far distant when St. John alone will not be able to handle the enormous winter business which must come this way.

But St. John at the present moment is not equipped to handle any more business than comes now to its wharves. There must be a constant and large expenditure to provide the facilities for the future as fast as they are needed. The amount to be expended does not signify, since this is a national work and the whole country must share in the expenditure. The vital point is that the work he carried on without delay.

The attitude of the rival candidates in St. John in this election is therefore a most important issue. On the one hand we have Dr. Pugsley, who has already secured appropriations amounting to $730,000, and his colleague, Mr. Pender, who stand for a policy which will develop terminal facilities both on the west side and in Courtenay Bay. On the other hand we have Dr. Daniel and Dr. MacRae, who figure out an enormous expenditure and scoff at the idea that it will be undertaken by the government.

There should be no difficulty in deciding which two candidates should be elected. St. John knows what Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Pender will do. They have the evidence in what has been done and is now being done. These are the men whose election is vital to the best interests of the winter port.

A WORD TO WORKERS

There remains but one week of active work before polling day. If in any ward there remains anything to be done to make the organization more effective for the Liberal cause it should be done at once. Let every man who desires the return of the government candidates tender his services. Let all the workers get together with a fixed determination to carry the ward by a good majority. The opposition workers are leaving nothing undone, and they should be met by an organization more effective than their own, to bring out the full Liberal vote of every ward. It is important for the credit of the city that the majority should be large. That is the answer that should be given to the unfair convasses and scandalous charges made by the opposition. If ever there was a time when the Liberals of St. John should exert themselves to the utmost to roll up a record majority in the constituency, that time has come again. Every man to his post. Let all other issues be subordinated to the task of vindicating the government and its candidates by an overwhelming vote.

A SILLY CANVAS

In their wild efforts to prejudice working men against the Liberal candidates the Conservatives make the silly assertion that Dr. Pugsley has done nothing for the winter port, because the past summer was a dull one for the 'longshoremen.

The season was dull because very little lumber was shipped. This was due to the dulness in the English and American markets. If the Conservatives came into power at Ottawa would the people of England and the United States immediately begin to build houses and clamor for more lumber? The idiotic nature of this canvass against Dr. Pugsley is surely apparent to everybody.

But Dr. Pugsley has done and is doing something that will benefit 'longshoremen. He is preparing the port for the great business of the future, when steamships will come to Courtenay Bay as well as the west side, giving employment to many more men than are now employed, even at the busiest season. Those who vote against Pugsley and Pender vote against this great policy of development.

Apparently the Conservatives do not favor a minister of public works who compels contractors to live up to the terms of their contract. This is what Dr. Pugsley did in regard to the work of the dredge Beaver. Had he done otherwise he might have had a large campaign fund.

Mr. Hatheway has overlooked the fact that prominent Conservatives opposed the Compensation Bill. When the delegation went to Fredericton Mr. Pender did not speak at all, either for or against the bill.

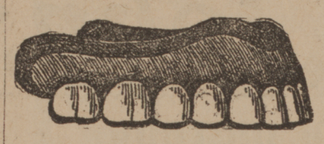
DAWN AND DARK.

God and His million cares
Went to the left or right
Leaving our world; and the day
Grew night.

Back from a sphere He came
Over a starry lawn,
Looked at our world; and the dark
Grew dawn.

—Norman Gale, "Orchard Songs."

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To MRS. _____

ST. _____ TOWN _____

A SONG OF FAR TRAVEL.

Many a time some drowsy oar,
From the nearer bank invited,
Crossed a narrow stream, and bore
In among the reeds moon-lighted,
There to leave me on a shore
No ferryman hath sighted.

Many a time a mountain stile,
Dark and bright with sudden wetting,
Lured my vagrant foot the while
'Twixt uplifting and down-setting—
Whither? Thousand mile on mile
Beyond the last forgetting.

Still by hidden ways I wend.
(Past occasion grown a ranger);
Still enchantment, like a friend,
Takes from death the tang of danger;
Hardly river or road can end
Where I need step a stranger!
—Louise Imogen Guiney, in the October Atlantic.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

ONE DRAWBACK.

Kinwood—"How do you like your new suburban home?"

Barquis—"Fine. There's only one drawback to it."

Kinwood—"What's that?"

Barquis—"I can't find a buyer for it."—Chicago Daily News.

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR PAW.

Dicky—Oh, you bet paw'll get it hot an' heavy when them folks go 'way.

Billy—How do you know?

Dicky—He broke a china fruit dish just now, an' maw said:—"Never mind it, love; it's nothing."—Chicago Tribune.

RESPECTING THE SABBATH.

Tourist (after a long discussion with station-master on the subject of catching a steamer)—"So you would advise me to come back by the Sunday night train in order to catch the boat on Monday morning?"

Station-master (severely)—"A wud advise nae mon tae profane the Sawbath; but a'll jist repeat—if ye wait till the Monday ye'll nae get the connection."—Punch.

THE AUTOMATIC SOUBRETTE.

"I suppose your play starts with a housemaid dusting the furniture and soliloquizing about the family affairs."

"No; we've cut all that out. Instead, we have a vacuum cleaner, with phonographic attachment."—Washington Herald.

NO OBSTACLE THERE.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Mr. Spoonamore—I—I hardly know what to say. Have you spoken to papa yet?

"I have, Dora."

"What did he say?"

"He said: 'What! Her? Gosh, yes!'"

AN ODD PROPOSITION.

The following United States yarn is retold with the idea that someone may find it worth repeating in the course of the election campaign just upon us in this country.

Mayor Speer, of Denver, was talking the other day about a pair of political tricksters.

"They gave themselves away," he said. Don't tricksters always give themselves away? It reminds me of the two men who wanted to sell their corpses for dissection.

"These two men, miserably clad, called on the dean of a medical college in New York.

"'We are both on the verge of starvation, sir,' the spokesman said. 'We are well on in years and it is clear that we haven't much longer to live. Would you care to purchase our bodies for your dissecting room?'

"The dean hesitated.

"'It is an odd proposition,' he muttered.

"'But it is occasionally done,' said the spokesman in an eager voice.

"'Well,' said the dean, 'we might arrange it. What price do you ask?'

"'Over in Philadelphia,' said the spokesman, 'they gave us $40.'"