The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 16, 1908

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THE DREDGING CONTRACT

When the Mayes contract was made in 1905, Dr. Pugsley was not in parliament. There were two tenders for the dredging, received in regular form. That of Mr. Mayes was the lowest, and it was accepted in the usual way. There is not a particle of evidence that the department knew whether there was any partnership between Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity or not. Mr. McAvity says there was a business arrangement, and is prepared to meet Mr. Mayes in the courts. The people of St. John were clamoring for the work to be done in this harbor. The greatest pressure was being brought upon the government to have it done. The government called for tenders and accepted the lowest. What else could they do? The attempt to show that there was an immoral transaction fails for lack of convincing evidence. What Mr. Mayes says about it must be read in the light of his statements about Dr. Pugsley, as they now stand revealed.

MR. JAMES PENDER

Mr. James Pender has been steadily gaining friends as the campaign proceeds. His opponents can find no fault in him, and have had to be content with a foolish attempt to make him appear as unfriendly to the interests of working men. To this attack Mr. Pender's honorable record as a manufacturer and large employer of labor is sufficient answer.

In his speeches, which are never long, Mr. Pender shows a strong grasp of the great questions which affect industry and most valuable member of committees of the house of commons, when matters affecting these interests are under consideration.

It has long been a source of complaint that practical business men do not offer themselves as candidates for representative positions, and that as a result the politics of the country is given over too largely to professional men. Those who make this complaint will recognize in Mr. Pender the very representative they have been asking for, and they should therefore rally to his support. It is no light task for a man with large business interests to canvass a constituency, and Mr. Pender's friends should devote themselves most earnestly to his interests from now until the close of the polls on election day. As a member of parliament he will not only be a credit to this constitutency but a most effective advocate of its just claims as a national winter port.

LOWERING THE STANDARD

Never in the history of Canada has there been a political campaign so befouled by abuse and slander of public men as that now in progress.

When the people of the country get about the serious business of choosing the men who shall make their laws and conduct their public affairs, there should be a fair discussion of important matters of policy and administration. This course in the present campaign has been rendered almost impossible by the methods adopted by the opposition. They have lowered the whole tone of public discussion. They have set out to blacken the reputation of public men, and to get themselves in power by a line of attack which ought to be beneath the consideration of men engaged in honorable political warfare. It is not surprising that Sir Wilfrid Laurier declares himself filled with shame and disgust that one of the great parties in Canada should have fallen so low. It is the duty of the people to stamp with the seal of their disapproval the degenerative influences which are bringing political discussion down to the standards of the gutter. In St. John the people can do this by giving their support to Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Pender, and the party which by its progressive policy is so rapidly building up the country.

PROVED TO THE HILT

The statement of the Hon. C. J. Osman, which is published today, leaves Mr. G. S. Mayes no possible loop-hole of escape.

Mr. Osman was for many years one of the representatives of Albert county in the legislature. He is an ex-speaker of the house of assembly, and a man of the highest reputation in public and private life. He has no possible interest in this affair other than a desire that the truth prevail.

Mr. Osman states in the most direct and emphatic language that Mr. Mayes conveyed to him the impression that $2,000 was paid to Dr. Pugsley when the latter was minister of public works; also that Mr. Mayes showed him photographs of documents, and urged him to see Dr. Pugsley and get the matter settled, making the threat that if this were not done at once he would make damaging exposures.

Mr. Osman was so much impressed that he made it his special business to see Dr. Pugsley, and tell him the story. Dr. Pugsley replied that it was a case of blackmail.

Thus Mr. Osman entirely confirms on every point the statements made by Messrs McAvity, Moore, Holt, and the minister of public works.

The Conservative leaders now owe it to themselves to repudiate Mr. Mayes, and apologize to the minister.

THEY ARE ALL IN IT

Mr. G. S. Mayes must not be the sole object of public reprobation in this affair of the affidavits.

There is at least this to be said for Mr. Mayes. He had played a game and lost, and was in a very bad temper.

But this cannot be said of Premier Hazen, who so cheerfully and even eagerly made himself the mouthpiece of the scandalous charges made. Nor can the same be said of the other Conservative leaders nor of the Standard newspaper.

Whatever of condemnation rests upon Mr. Mayes must be shared by these guilty partners.

Not only have they not repudiated Mr. Mayes but they had him as a speaker at their meeting in Keith's assembly rooms on Tuesday evening. Therefore they must accept the responsibility with him for the course he has pursued and must share with him the condemnation of all fair-minded people. The Standard argues that Mr. Mayes is not an issue in the campaign, but its own party has made him an issue and it must accept the consequences.

If the Standard were to be judged by the pious horror with which it regards certain other newspapers, one would assume that the new journal of reform had been established by the righteous men of all parties, in a last despairing effort to save a doomed country. The Standard, however, is a Conservative campaign sheet and a hopless partisan. It contents are to be read in that light.

When Mr. Mayes stated that his was the only tender for dredging in 1905, he was not stating the facts. The records of the department show that there were two tenders on each occasion, and that as his was the lowest he was awarded the contract in the regular way. Little by little the alleged exposure is being exposed.

From every ward in the city comes news of former Conservatives who are disgusted by the grossness of the attack upon Dr. Pugsley. Mr. Hazen as well as others has been caught in the rebound of the Mayes affidavit, and he has greatly lowered himself in public esteem.

The electors of Lancaster will give Pugsley and Pender an overwhelming majority. Last night's Fairville meeting was an indication of what will happen on the 26th.

Premier Hazen has damaged his reputation as a fair-minded politician. He will not easily recover from the effects of the Mayes affidavit.

There is said to be some talk in Conservative circles of sending a searching party out into the county to locate Dr. MacRae.

Dr. MacRae is due with another thrilling story of his search for game in St. John county.

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DR. DANIEL AGAIN

Dr. Daniel grows more pessimistic as election day draws nearer. He asserted last night that in his programme relative to Courtenay Bay Dr. Pugsley insults the intelligent people of St. John. The answer to this statement lies in the fact that to get the benefit of preferential business the Grand Trunk Pacific must come to St. John, and terminals must be provided. Dr. Pugsley proposes to have them ready when the trade comes. Let us answer Dr. Daniel in Dr. Pugsley's own words:

"I notice that Dr. Daniel last night said that no doubt the time would come, but there was no need to carry on work in Courtenay Bay until the G. T. P. was built and the traffic comes. What would you say, gentlemen, of the farmer who in the opening of the year sowed his oats, wheat and roots, but had no barn or root cellar? A neighbor comes to see him and says: 'Why, my man, you are going to have a great crop, but what are you going to do with it, you have no barns?' The farmer replies: 'I'll build my barns after I've harvested my crop!'"

Dr. Pugsley does not propose to wait for the harvest, but to get the barns ready, being assured that the harvest will not fail. The people are asked to choose between a man who does things and a man who simply stands by and scoffs. Which will intelligent people choose?

MR. W. FRANK HATHEWAY

Mr. W. Frank Hatheway finds himself essaying a thankless task. In his efforts to aid the Conservative cause he is going back on his own record as an advocate of the claims of the winter port. The citizens do not forget the constant activity of Mr. Hatheway in years past to stir up the board of trade and urge that greater efforts he made to secure from the Conservative government justice for St. John. He even bolted the party on one occasion and became a leader of the independents. Moreover, Mr. Hatheway has a great admiration for the ability of Dr. Pugsley and his determined zeal for the development of the winter port. It must therefore be with no small degree of reluctance that he takes the platform in opposition to the minister, especially when he makes a comparison between Dr. Pugsley and Dr. MacRae, who certainly was not Mr. Hatheway's choice as a candidate. We shall expect Mr. Hatheway to vote for Dr. Pugsley and the rapid development of the winter port.

The opposition party does not expect to defeat the government. The most that it really expects is to pull down the government's majority to some extent. A few wild prophets, inspired by their own hopes, declare that the government will be overthrown, but they cannot convince the more practical men even of their own party. There is no great issue between the parties, and the scandal campaign has defeated itself by its unreasoning ferocity and its disregard for the decencies of public discussion.

ANDANTE OF SCHUBERT.

As you played on, my bursting heart stood still.
Years passed away; it seemed I stood again
Numbed with the sudden bitterness of pain,
And watched my dream fade o'er the twilit hill.
And now outside the wild night and its fears
Brings back your haunting cry thro' all the years.

So deep, so black, the stormy eve peers in
Through my uncurtained window. Rough and hoarse,
As if with human grief and real remorse,
Screams the loud wind's harsh and incessant din.
But here within, your old-world, gentle tune
Has brought again the tenderness of June.

Dear, as you play, my half-closed eyes seem wet,
Out from the eerie corner's gloom there seem
To steal those loved ones of a misty dream—
Loved ones, long gone, whom I can ne'er forget.
O grey and white, their questioning faces smile
In my dim eyes to speak to me awhile.

As you played on, my broken heart was healed,
Love could not die. I still could softly go
Back thro' old memories' long vales of snow,
To where the paths meet by the clover field.
I only have to close mine eyes to see
Their smiling faces from Eternity.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

HIDDEN REMINDERS.

(Sketch.)

Sister Ann—"Did you get any marks at school terday, Bill?"

Bill—"Yus; but they're where they don't show."

STILL IN DANGER.

"Is he out of danger yet?"

"No; the doctor is still in attendance."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

WANTED THE EVIDENCE.

"Darling, I mean to prove my love for you not by words, but by deeds."

"Oh, George, did you bring the deeds with you?"—Baltimore American.

CANNOT KEEP AWAY.

"Why does he hang around the piano? He just murdered his song."

"Well, they claim a criminal can't keep away from the scene of the offence."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

ACCORDING TO THE PICKING.

Columbus Washington Johnson Smith—"W'at's de price er dem wattermelons, Mr. Jackson?"

Mr. Jackson (cunningly)—"Ten cents er-piece, and I picks 'em, Mr. Smif."

Mr. Smith—"All right, Mr. Jackson. I guesses I'll take 'em all, and you picks 'em, ef you please!'"—Puck.

A BOTHERSOME CONSCIENCE.

(Washinton Star.)

"I hope you came out of that horse trade with a clear conscience."

"Yes," answered Si, smiling; "but it kind o' worries me. My conscience is so onusually clear that I can't help feelin' I must o' got the wust o' the trade."

HERLOCK SHOMES.

(Boston Transcript.)

"It is clear, Poston," said Herlock Shomes, "that the farmer who raised the spring chicken was very tender-hearted."

"How in the world do you know that?" asked the astonished Poston.

"It's simple enough. The farmer hesitated so long before striking the fatal blow."

GETTING ON.

"How are you progressing with your French?" asked the first dear girl.

"Oh, fine," replied dear girl No. 2. "I've got so I can make myself misunderstood perfectly."—Chicago Daily News.

LUCID ANSWERS.

They were asking the eminent lawyer why he took so large a fee from the Truet.

"I think it was its largeness that made it easy to take," he smilingly answered.

Then the State's attorneys conferred.

"And didn't you stop to consider that the money was tainted?" they asked him.

"No," he ingenuously replied, "I only stopped to count it."

This closed the proceedings for the day.—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

THE INGLENOOK PHILOSOPHER OF KENNEBECCASIS BAY

As I dream my dreams by the roadside another acquaintance of my early boyhood comes lounging up the hill. He is middle aged and rather seedy in appearance, and walks as if it were a matter of indifference to him where he went or when he got there. That is the way he used to walk and that is the way he walks in my reverie. If others were to see him they would call him a tramp, but he is seen by no eyes but mine, for most likely he lives in no one's memory but mine. Were he here today he would be called a tramp, but in his time he was a traveller, welcome almost everywhere he went and as harmless as a child. Very likely his understanding was unsettled; I don't know. The first time he came to our house he took off his hat as the door was opened, and after clearing his throat, sang Moore's "Lake of the Dismal Swamp" from beginning to end before exchanging a word with any one of our household.

"They made her a grave too cold and damp
For a heart so warm and true:—
She has gone to the Lake of the Dismal Swamp
Where all night long by her firefly lamp
She paddles her white canoe."

He sang much, and well, as I thought. His repertoire included "Oft in the Stilly Night," "The Last Rose of Summer," "Bonnie Doon," "Annie Laurie," "Auld Lang Syne," "Home, Sweet Home," and other old favorites. When he had finished singing he evidently thought he had paid for his entertainment and we thought so, too. He came along three or four times every summer for three or four years, but after his last call he attempted a short cut to a neighboring town, over a densely wooded mountain, and never again was seen nor heard from by any of us.

Another peripetatic of those days was a middle-aged woman who always carried an umbrella. She was evidently demented, but very quiet and respectful in her intercourse with us. She did not sing, but she had a great store of fairy stories, which she reeled off to me by the hour. There was a little stone bridge a quarter of a mile below our house, and there she met the fairies—hundreds of them. She brought me from them many strange and incomprehensible messages, which she repeated with great earnestness. She came to us at intervals for several years and then went away, perhaps to other neighborhoods—perhaps to another world.

Whitehead, Kings Co., Oct. 20.

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The Evening Times
ST. JOHN, N. B.

MARINE NOTES

Battle line steamship Trabia, Capt. Hilton, sailed from Norfolk last Wednesday for Kastrup via Rotterdam.

Schr. Helvetia sailed Monday from Calais for Bridgewater, N. S.

The wreck of the schr. E. Waterman was towed on Monday from the gridiron at the Mills wharf, St. Stephen, and beached on the flats near the marine railway at Calais.

According to the latest winter sailings of the Allan Line, the Virginian will not make more than two trips to St. John and Halifax this season, while the Victorian will make three. The Victorian makes one trip in November and then lays off till March. The turbiners will have their winter overhauling in time for next season on the St. Lawrence. The majority of the sailings from Liverpool to Halifax and St. John will be taken by the Tunisian, Grampian, Corsican and Hesperian.—Montreal Gazette.

REASON ENOUGH.

(Philidelphia Bress.

"Aw, really, Miss Pert, it's rather rude to say you don't like my face. Why don't you?"

"Oh, because."

"Because? There's no reason in that answer."

"Neither is there any in your face."