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FROM STUMP TO LEGISLATURE

It's a far cry from the schoolhouse to the legislature, from the election stump where the aspiring legislator can say what he pleases without adducing proof, to the legislature where proof is demanded. The length of this cry was made painfully evident in the legislature yesterday when by a formal resolution of the House, Messrs J. H. Bell and J. J. Johnston were informed they were going to be given an opportunity to prove the charges they made during the Souris election campaign against the Honourable James A. McNeill, Commissioner of Public Works.

Our readers remember the story. By way of a scandal that was going to wreck the government, injure the reputation of the Commissioner of Public Works and win the Souris election for the Grigs, Messrs Bell and Johnston after laying their plans at a caucus in Charlottetown essayed to spring this mine simultaneously at two different meetings in the Souris District. They had copies of an affidavit sworn to by two Arsenaults contractors in Summerside to the effect that the Commissioner of Public Works had endeavored to persuade them on election day to accept a large sum of money over and above the amount due them for a contract they had completed. Those who knew Mr. McNeill, while mystified by the affidavit, refused to believe that he could do a dishonourable act. Those who did not know him probably believed the scandal—at the time. The "Organ of Garbled Misrepresentations" told the story the next day in glaring headlines, rolled it along as a sweet morsel over its pages for weeks and months afterwards—even after it had been proved to be nothing but a scandal got up for purely political purposes during the election campaign. Even after the Souris election had given the scandal mongers the rebuke they so richly deserved the allegation against the Commissioner of Public Works was revived at certain periods when other scandals ran short.

Yesterday the "bomb" came back and fell at the feet of those who fired it. Had it been a Jack Johnson from a German trench it would scarcely have caused greater consternation. Messrs Bell and Johnston were going to be given an opportunity to prove their allegations or if they could not, act as honourable men and apologize. It was even worse than that. The whole matter was to be investigated and there was a lot of matter. There was the fact that the Arsenaults had sworn to their statement three days after they had promised the Secretary of Public Works to refund the amount he had overpaid them by mistake.

To investigate this and the cause of their withholding the promised settlement did not "look good" to Messrs Bell and Johnston and they began to squirm. Like the character in Mark Twain who had "made an ass of himself," they "didn't mean to do any harm"! There was no need of an investigation! They had never said anything against Mr. McNeill! They had always said he was an honourable man! They didn't mean to insinuate anything!

They will now be given a splendid opportunity to substantiate at least half of what they said on "the stump" in Souris or to apologize to Mr. McNeill and the House and the people for concocting and scattering broadcast one of the most contemptible scandals ever used politically or otherwise against an honourable man.

There are some kinds of political falsehoods and scandals that may be used over and over again with some effect and the grigs and their Organ of G. M. have a fairly complete list of them, but this is not one of that kind. A man's honour is at stake and there must be either vindication or condemnation—or an apology.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

The report of the Provincial Engineer, Mr. H. H. Shaw, is a practical concise statement of things done during the year with a forecast and suggestions as to things yet to be done. Early in the year tenders were called for the manufacture of six 35-foot steel spans. Contracts for three of these were awarded to the Maritime Bridge Company, New Glasgow, N. S., and

for the other three to McKinnon, Holmes & Co., Sherbrooke, Que. Five of these were erected during the year, besides two others that were on hand from the previous year. These five were built at Peake's Lot 52, Leard's Lot 52, Muddy Creek, Lot 17, Bradshaw's, Bedeque, and Thompson's, Lot 25. Extensive repairs and improvements were made to some twenty other bridges, some of them quite extensive. Some 800 feet of the Darnley Bridge was completely rebuilt, the former structure having been carried away by the storm and tide of last September. Retaining walls of concrete were added to the approaches to the magnificent steel span bridge at Montague. The new bridge at Hunter River was raised five feet and the approaches graded accordingly. The approaches to Clyde River Bridge were built level with the floor of the new steel bridge and a new rail the full length of the bridge was built, besides many other extensions and repairs a complete list of which is given in the report.

In addition to the new bridges and extensions and improvements to former structures, a number of new roads were opened up and low roads built up. At the eastern approach to Summerside a piece of road that since Summerside became a town was almost impassable in Spring and Fall, was built up and macadamized into a splendid road 26 feet wide, which will prove a great boon to the farmers and others in going to or from their market. Similar work was done at the west side of Summerside where it was equally needed. Besides these many other low roads in different parts of the province were built up with pole and brush foundation and gravel wearing surface and suitable ditches opened. A full list of these roads is given in the report.

The work done in connection with the mussel mud business at Midgell is referred to. Besides the 420 foot wharf built, for loading mussel mud on the cars, and a branch railway 2500 feet long to connect with the main line, a scow with a capacity of 40 tons was procured and twelve trips were made during the summer to landing places provided by the farmers at various points up the river. The amount of wealth taken from St. Peter's Bay by the means adopted there and carried to the farmers at distant points as well as to those in the vicinity, is incalculable and the farmers for generations to come will receive generous dividends on this outlay by the government.

The old County jail in Georgetown, an old and insanitary wooden building was torn down and a new and modern structure of concrete and stone was built adjoining the Court House, "making necessary only one heating plant, one water supply, and sewerage disposal and the services of one caretaker for both buildings."

Five new road machines were purchased early in the summer but they arrived too late for use during the early spring road making. They were used later however and materially hastened the completion of the roadwork. These will be on hand for early roadwork this season.

The engineer very properly directs attention to the need of cleaning up the roadsides and removing all debris and bushes and strongly recommends the use of wire fencing along the roads as a prevention to snowdrifts and the usual condition of our roads in winter.

In the report is a list of the contracts awarded in connection with this department during the year, also an itemized statement of expenditures on all the public works of the province, including the public buildings, ferries etc, and a summary of the Road Master's returns.

The report is a splendid record of a big year's work, an honest statement of the expenditures in the biggest spending department of the government, and a careful perusal of it will be the most effective reply to the carping criticism which is doing duty as argument in the legislature.

MR. "DOOLEY" JOHNSTON

Yesterday the Patriot designates Mr. J. J. Johnston junior member for Cardigan as Mr. Dooley. It said "in the words of Mr. Dooley Mr. J. A. MacDonald "finds its cowl outside the dure." As the Patriot is evidently better acquainted with the peculiarities of Mr. Johnston than we profess to be, we are not prepared to find fault with the appellation. Perhaps the Patriot would find among the members of the Opposition some one who would fill the role of Finnegan or Casey equally well.

Mr. J. A. MacDonald brought a most serious charge against Mr. Johnston, a charge which went directly to his reputation for truthfulness. In place of answering this charge, Mr. Johnston descends to the methods of Dooley and Finnegan. This may be all right for some people, but it is scarcely becoming the dignity of a representative of the people when brought to book for falsehood and misrepresentation.

CARRYING THE "FENCE" STONE

Sir.—A great many people like to cling to old customs, however, laborious unprofitable and out-of-date they may be. This falling is very aptly illustrated in the story of the boy who always brought grist to the mill by putting the grain in one end of the sack and a stone of equal weight, in the other end, thereby putting a double burden on his horse. The Miller remonstrated with him, telling him to put grain in each end and he would not need to carry the stone. The boy said that he carried the grist as his father and grandfather did and he did not presume to be any wiser than they. Our farmers have carried many heavy and useless stones, and are carrying some still. They have carried the "stone" of forest destruction so long that thousands of homes are left without a tree to protect them from the polar blasts. They carried a long time the stone of soil depletion by growing oats and other exhausting crops. They are carrying to

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE BLOOM OF AGE.

A good woman never grows old. Years may pass over her head, but if benevolence and virtue dwell in her heart she is as cheerful as when the spring of life first opened to her view. When we look upon a good woman we never think of her age; she looks as charming as when the rose of youth first bloomed on her cheek. That rose has not faded yet; it will never fade. In her neighborhood she is the friend and benefactor. Who does not respect and love the woman who has passed her days in acts of kindness and mercy—whose whole life has been a scene of kindness and love and a devotion to truth? No; such a woman cannot grow old.

She will always be fresh and buoyant in spirit, and active in humble deeds of mercy and benevolence. If girls desire to retain the bloom and beauty of youth, let them not yield to the sway of fashion and folly; let them love truth and virtue; and to the close of life they will retain those feelings which now make life appear a garden of aspects, ever fresh and ever new.

FOR TIRED SCHOOL CHILDREN

Boys and girls who have been bending over their desks for weeks and months, and often studying at home late into the night, get into a weak, nervous, run-down condition, and wise mothers will take the advice of our local druggist, E. A. Foster, and give such children Vinol, because it is a non-secret preparation which contains the three oldest tonics known, and is guaranteed to strengthen and restore health to weak, overworked, run-down people, and to cure chronic coughs, colds and bronchitis, or you can get your money back. E. A. Foster, Central Drugstore, Charlottetown and H. J. Mahon, Drugist, Souris.

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 Floor Paint 70c Qt. Floor Enamel 75c and 80c Qt.
 Glidden's Gloss White Enamel, dries with a pure white high gloss finish, all size tins from 20c up.
 Glidden's Flat White, insures a perfect and durable result. All sized tins from 30c up.
 Jap-A-Lac for renewing old and worn furniture and woodwork, etc. Prices, 10, 20, 30, 60 and \$1.10 a tin.
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 1001 General Purpose Varnish suitable for all kinds of interior woodwork. Prices from 20c to \$2.00 tin.
 Butcher's Floor Wax, the oil reliable Floor finish 70c lb.
 Linoleum Varnish 30 and 50c a tin.
 Aluminum Paint, gives a lasting silver finish on radiators and range Boilers, etc. Prices from 20c a tin up.
 Washable gold Paint for Picture Frames, etc., from 28c up.
 Let us tell you how to make House Cleaning easy by our helpful hints.

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WHOLESALE & RETAIL

IMPORTANT

Relations of soldiers returning from the front are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Provincial Committee of Wounded Soldiers Commission, Miss Nellie Gillespie, Charlottetown, intimating the date of expected arrival, cause of return and any other particulars, in order that preparation may be made for a fitting reception.

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New Scrims and Curtain Materials in Ecru, White and Ivory

Special Bed Room Curtaining in Ecru and White Scrim hemstitched border, with casement drape attached 45c per yd.
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 Brussels Rugs standard sizes 13.50 to 30.00.
 Tapestry Rugs 9x9, 9x 10 1-2 and 9x12 7.50 to 20.00.
 Tapestry Stair Carpet 65 to 1.00.
 Brussels " " 1.25 to 1.65.
 Wilton " " 1.75 to 2.50.
 Door Mats 35c, 50c, 75c to 2.50.
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