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**DODD & ROGERS.**

**THE MORNING GUARDIAN**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1902.

**REV. MR. HECTOR HEARD FROM.**

Rev. J. H. Hector has written to both The Guardian and The Patriot in relation to the charges made by A. J. B. Mellish of this City. To the charge of having misstated or exaggerated the facts in his story about a remarkable occurrence at Eureka, Dakota, he offers a square denial. He says: "I have not misstated anything, but may have spoken of Carson City, instead of Mound City, when speaking of Carson as one of the men who was killed. You will see by the map that Mound City is just the distance that I have said from Eureka." Mr. Hector also flatly denies that he ever told that he was the man who struck down McKinley's assassin. Such a story was printed, but without his knowledge and was contradicted in the same paper on the following day. He offers in proof that it was so contradicted, the written statement of Rev. J. R. Real, pastor of the Methodist Church in Belleville.

Mr. Hector further tells that he hopes again to be in Charlottetown and meet his accuser on the spot. He has written to the west to persons whom he expects to verify his statements in full in regard to what took place at Eureka and Mound City. Other satisfactory testimony is offered by Mr. Hector to prove that he is paying for the education of the Zulu boy for whom he was taking up collections; and that his services have been sought for from time to time recently by various secretaries of Y. M. C. Associations in the United States. The correspondence is quite voluminous and as it relates to matters not before referred to in this paper and having been already published, need not be here reproduced. We think that all candid and fair-minded readers of his statement will believe, as we do, that Mr. Hector can fully vindicate his character against all his traducers. He will receive a hearty welcome when he returns to our City.

**OUR POLICE FORCE.**

It has passed into a proverb that "the policeman's lot is not a happy one." And if this is true of the guardians of the peace in other cities it is perhaps more so in Charlottetown. In the first place our police force is altogether too few in number for the work they have to do and

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the large area to be patrolled. In fact with but six men the patrol system as it exists in other cities, where each policeman has his "beat" and every street is regularly walked day and night from hour to hour, is impossible. With one of the six constantly at the Police Station by day and another by night, which is obviously necessary, there are left but two men by day and two by night for outside duty. How can two men exercise any proper or efficient guardianship over our many miles of streets? It is obvious that with but two men on outside duty, be they the best policemen in the world, we can have but a shadow of police protection compared with the substance as it exists in other cities.

The time was, in the sixties, when our City was much smaller and less populous than it is now, yet we had a force of eighteen policemen and a Marshal. The City has grown, slowly, it is true, and yet considerably in the intervening years. Some fifteen years ago in a mistaken notion of economy the police force, which had before been gradually diminished, was further reduced far below what it ought to have been. The obvious duty of the City Council is to add a number of men to the force. This is the more necessary because some members of the present extremely limited force are already somewhat past their prime of activity and strength. We are glad to find that the present energetic head of the Police Committee has already strongly recommended an increase with good prospects of securing it early in the new year. Our present Council, although not free from mistakes, has evinced a disposition to make needed improvements in various ways, and we trust will deal with this important matter as it deserves.

There is another matter of urgency in connection with the police administration and that is the need of a patrol wagon for the conveyance of prisoners to the station. At present when the police arrest an unruly or drunken prisoner they have frequently to drag or half carry him through the streets, it may be half way across the town, to the lock-up. In every case a crowd gathers, and the spectacle is always a degrading one. Recently on a Sunday, just as the Sabbath school children were returning to their homes, an arrest was made and the prisoner, howling drunken blasphemies and obscenities, was dragged on to the station surrounded by a multitude, mostly of young persons, including many children. Such a spectacle, repulsive and demoralizing in its every feature, could probably not be witnessed in any other Canadian city than Charlottetown.

We need a patrol wagon to save such degrading spectacles. The police are not to blame for these disgraceful exhibitions. They would doubtless gladly avoid them if it were possible, and doubly glad to be saved the strenuous toil, the battering and bruises which present conditions impose upon them. The City ought long ago to have rendered such scenes impossible by making provision such as other cities have for the cartage of drunken and resisting prisoners to the Police Station. Every one of our policemen today carries the marks of injuries received while making arrests of lawless and violent prisoners. These are honorable scars—not less worthy than those received on the battlefield by the soldier in defence of his country. We fear they are not always so regarded, but it is none the less true that the maintenance of order in our streets and about our homes, if honestly, efficiently and courageously done is worthy of recognition by all good citizens.

This brings us to consider briefly another matter which is worthy of more than passing notice, the attitude of our citizens toward the police. We do not think the latter receive that recognition and support from the better class of our citizens to which they are fairly entitled, while from some strange but unexplained cause the sympathies

of a large portion of the mob which gathers when an arrest is made are often outspokenly against the police and in favor of the prisoner. Policemen at such times are often grossly insulted with foul epithets, and sometimes actually obstructed in their unpleasant duties. These things ought not so to be. All too few in numbers, with arduous and hazardous duties frequently involving peril to limb or life, our police force ought to be assured of the full moral support of the community when they are faithfully trying to do their duty. This support we believe they have not had in the measure which they might justly claim.

Let our City Council show a proper sense of the gravity of the situation; let them add to the police force the number actually needed, and provide them with the needed appliances and we shall have a better police force, better order, fewer unseemly spectacles on our streets and a better condition of things generally. The lawless element, now only too ready to assault and beat a policeman, will then acquire a decent respect for the majesty of the law, and we are assured that the action of the Council courageously taken to secure these urgently necessary reforms will meet with the hearty approval of our citizens generally.

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