

**THE MORNING GUARDIAN**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1904.

**THE PATRIOT'S ANSWER.**

We are charged by The Patriot with a "want of knowledge" of our fishery claims. If we were wrong in assuming that the Western Provinces and other questions than the fishery question were to be before the proposed board of arbitration we can only say that we were misled by the words of Premier Peters himself as quoted in The Patriot of Tuesday as follows:

"Mr. Pugsley and myself suggested that the other question which remained unsettled, viz. the increase of subsidies, should also be disposed of at the same time by the same board of arbitration."

Here we were told that the fishery and subsidies questions are to be settled at the same time and by the same board of arbitrators. The arbitrators must therefore represent the western as well as the eastern Provinces and the Dominion, all of which are financially interested in the matter of increased subsidies. Now, in The Patriot of yesterday, we are told that the subsidies question is entirely distinct, having nothing to do with the other, although it is to be settled at the same time and by the same board. Clearly the western Provinces must be represented on the arbitration board. Our objection lies to representatives of the west having anything to do with the fishery award, on the ground that it would be to their interest to prevent the eastern Provinces getting anything out of the award.

The Patriot says we have forgotten that Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia have no interest whatever in the fishery award, and that it would not interest them at all whether the Maritime Provinces got the whole or any part of it. Assuming this to be so, why are they brought in as parties to the settlement? But we cannot

assume that they are disinterested. The fishery award is now a part of the consolidated fund of the Dominion. On that fund all the Provinces have a common claim. Would it not matter to Prince Edward Island if one or more millions were taken from the consolidated fund and bestowed upon Ontario, Manitoba or British Columbia?

It is clearly to the interest of the Dominion to resist our fisheries claim. The Dominion has the money and we want to get it. Equally clear is it that the interest of the western Provinces is for the Dominion to keep the award in the common fund rather than pay it to the eastern Provinces. So that, view it in any reasonable light we stand to lose by admitting the western Provinces to the arbitration. If they are not interested they have no right to meddle in the matter at all or share in the settlement. In so much as they are interested their interest is for the Dominion to keep the award and not pay it over to us.

We went so fully into the matter of increased subsidies some months ago that we need not now repeat the arguments that an increase of subsidies on the basis proposed would be against our interest. The larger Provinces would gain enormously in the per capita subsidies at 80 cents per head on the proposed basis, while we would stand to lose. At one dollar per head their gain would be proportionately greater. We should get

an additional grant for civil government and legislation of some \$70,000 a year, but at the cost of giving Ontario \$160,000 a year more, and other Provinces proportionate increases under that head.

We are not yet told how the arbitration board is to be made up, the number of its members, or whether its decision is to be necessarily final. These are important matters. We greatly regret the admission made by our representative that there is doubt as to the legality of our claim to a share in the fishery award. It seems to take the heart out of our case, and is certainly calculated to depress the hopes of our people in that regard. And despite the labored reasoning of The Patriot we regret still more strongly that the representatives of the western Provinces—always hostile to Island interests—are to be admitted to a potential voice in a settlement which ought to have been made, we think, by the Supreme Court, but if made by arbitration should have been an arbitration between the eastern Provinces of the one part, the Dominion of the other part and between these parties alone.

**BIG LEGAL FEES.**

Hon. Edward Blake, still a great lawyer, has signified to the electors of Longford his willingness to abandon his professional duties and devote himself entirely to the work of a representative. This is no small sacrifice as members of the British Parliament serve without any indemnity and pay their own expenses. And Mr. Blake's professional income is large. Before leaving Canada he was the one man in the Dominion reputed to receive the largest retainers. Since his removal to the Old Country, or for some years at least, he still derived a large income as a member of the large law firm in Toronto, and to this was added his numerous large retainers for conducting cases from Canada and other Colonies before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is little doubt therefore that at seventy-one years of age the great Canadian lawyer can well afford to retire from the duties of a profession in which he attained so great eminence.

But large as were the fees earned by Mr. Blake they were small compared with those pocketed by the great corporation lawyers of the United States. After Lawyer W. D. Guthrie succeeded in breaking the will of the late H. B. Plant of the Plant Line, so that the widow was allowed \$8,000,000 as her portion, \$1,000,000 was paid him for his conduct of the case. Lawyer J. B. Hill, who organized some of the giant trusts, received \$1,000,000 for settling the breach between Carnegie and Frick over the control of the steel and coke trade. For the mere privilege of having the first call on the services of Lawyer F. L. Stetson, whether he actually consults him or not, J. P. Morgan pays Stetson \$50,000 a year, all advice being additional. The biggest single fee yet received is, however, that of Lawyer W. N. Cromwell of New York for selling the rights of the French Panama Canal Company to the United States. Of the forty millions paid over he received \$2,000,000. The fact is that in a country where millionaires are counted by thousands and the lawyers who lead at the bar can command their own price and their rich clients are pleased to get them at any figure.

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**HOME INSURANCE CO.—RE TORONTO FIRE.**

THE HOME INSURANCE COMPANY, New York, April 25, 1904.

To our agents in Canada:—As you are no doubt interested, we take this early opportunity to advise that "THE HOME'S" net loss in the TORONTO CONFLAGRATION is a trifle less than TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. Following our usual custom, our adjusters are now on the ground prepared to promptly and equitably adjust these losses, which will be immediately paid in cash and without discount. We also take the opportunity of again calling your attention to the following facts:

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It is probably unnecessary to add that this conflagration does not in the slightest degree affect our policy or lines, and that our facilities for assisting our worthy representatives are undiminished.

With kind regards, we remain  
Yours truly,  
(Signed) E. H. A. Correa, Vice President.  
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