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The Third Warning

By Augustus Muir

(Continued)

"Birmingham," said George shortly, detaching the blade from its spring socket and slipping it home into the sheath in the handle. "There's no clue to its owner about this." He flung the knife on the dressing table. "No; the only information we can get from this is that somebody means business, and they've lost no time either." I nodded.

"The first thing," continued George seriously, "is what are you going to do about it? Doesn't it strike you as to put it crudely—a mug's game hanging about here waiting to be stabbed in the back? Is it worth the candle?"

"Do you mean, should I clear out and—"

George assented. "That's just it. Our hands are tied. We're absolutely in the dark. I suppose nothing else has happened since I saw you?"

As briefly as I could I gave George an account of my doings since I left after lunch the day before; how I had seen Margat at Seymour's window; her father entering the hotel presumably to join them; my hurried thought final decision to live in the Hall myself and my second brief visit to Mr. Blair, the lawyer, to tell him so; my calling at the Home Farm with Margat, and our subsequent pilgrimage through the house and grounds, keeping back only my feeling toward the girl, but indicating that she was rather upset—as was her father—that my decision to hang on to the Hall was irrevocable.

"There you are!" said George when I had finished. "With every step the tangle gets worse instead of better. There's Seymour, there's Blair there's Mr. Shaw, there's the girl. Yes, there's also that big fellow with Seymour in the library. And there's the third man we never saw in the dark. It's baffling. That Seymour man you mention—well, you'll be interested to hear I saw him myself this morning. I put up at the N. B. Hotel, and when I popped down to the coffee room to breakfast he was sitting in the corner champing bacon and eggs. I spotted his sandy hair and cherubic face at once, though it was only a glimpse I got in the library. He must have stayed at the N. B. last night, for you interviewed him there yesterday. So he's off your list of possible knife-wielders. No, old son, there are too many threads, too many knots, to know where to begin. What's your view about clearing out, leaving the darned place and popping off to some little hotel on the East Coast? I know some topping spots round there."

"If you go," I said almost angrily, "you go alone! I'm going to see this through, though I get spiked through the neck in the process. If a few half baked assassins, who can only fight in the dark, think they're going to scare me off they've never made a greater mistake in their little lives. So that's my last word on the subject!"

George chuckled. "Forgive me, Ronny I had to put it to you that way I just had to!—don't you see? It's you who're in danger—it's you that's got to be considered first. If you're determined to weigh in with you!"

"George—" I began fervently. "Don't look so grateful, you old owl! I tell you I'm looking forward to it like anything. The war was horrible but, by gad, it did stir you up—jog you into activity. That's what I feel like now. Only we've got to use our old brains a bit more. Whoever's at the back of this—Seymour or whoever it may be—is probably a bit wily. So we've got to be wilyer still. It's the unclosed eye for us! We've got to lamp that cove Seymour and the whole roost of them, till we get a few more facts to work on. And we've got this to guard us!" He fumbled in the suitcase and clapped upon the table a couple of automatics. "Aren't they dandies Go and put on your trousers. Ronny, just for the joy of showing it in your hip pocket!" He tossed one over to me, and I gripped in my palm its squat, ugly, business-like body.

"I'm sorry for somebody," I exclaimed, clicking my finger round the trigger. "But I wish I knew now who that somebody's to be!"

FRIEND OR ENEMY?

"Time will tell us that," said George grimly. "And now I'm hungry. Definitely hungry. Since you invited me to breakfast, I invite you to lunch—I see you're still nibbling away like an old rabbit." He disappeared into the passage, where he had dumped his fresh luggage from the car, and returned with various parcels piled on a wooden box which he was dragging behind him. "Food and wine for the workers," chanted George, producing and opening a bottle of claret, and proceeding to empty on a row of plates an assortment of cold meats

Challenges Statements Of Government Leader

Senior Conservative Member For Charlottetown Deals Trenchantly With Subject Matters In Speech From Throne And Reviews Inaction And Incompetence Of Saunders Administration.

Provincial Legislature, March 14. Debate on Draft Address. Dr. W.J.P. McMillan (continued from yesterday's Guardian):

Who Got the Car Ferry? Dr. McMillan went on to discuss the clause in the Speech referring to the new car ferry. We all know, he said, just how much the Premier and this Government did in that respect.

If they want to take the credit for it, let them go ahead. The junior member from Summerside (Mr. L. R. Allen) claims to have had something to do with the plans of the new steamer; but he is not a member of the Government. Credit is given to the Liberal members of Parliament; but what about the Senators? It would be too bad if Senator Hughes were left out, since he and the Premier are such good friends and co-operate together so well. And what about the Boards of Trade? I know (Dr. McMillan continued) that for years the Boards of Trade have been holding meetings and discussing this matter. I believe that members of the Charlottetown Board of Trade have gone to Ottawa in this connection. The matter was one which required strenuous efforts on the part of every one,—business men, merchants, and all concerned. The press also has been agitating for an improved service for a long time. It was only after a great deal of difficulty and after a change in the original plans that something is being secured which they think will be the most useful that can be devised. I believe that so far as this Government is concerned, it had to be requisitioned to come in—that the Premier himself had to be practically driven to do what he did in support of the Boards of Trade and other organizations that were opposing the putting through of the original plans, which would have given us an altogether unsatisfactory car ferry service for many years to come.

Murray Harbor Ry.

The Speech makes reference to potato warehouses, dredging of harbours, repairing of wharves, the building of the Lake Verde branch and the standardization of the Murray Harbour railway—all Federal activities. I am sorry my hon. friend from Mount Stewart (Mr. Clark) is not in the House today, because this is one matter in which he should be vitally concerned. If there was a mean deal put over on any section of the country, Mr. Speaker, it was put over on the district which you and the hon. member from Mount Stewart represent in this Legislature. If and when they get this Murray Harbour railway built, it will mean the cutting out of large and prosperous farming sections from any railway access to this city. For very many years the farmers of Fort Augustus, Johnston's River and Mount Ryan have been clamouring for a railway connection with the capital of the Province. They held meetings; they had the Dominion representatives there; and they have been trying for years to get that put through. And now what are they going to get? Something which will forever shut

them out of all that they have been striving for. That in short is what this new branch line means. It does not go through the best part of the country; it is not what the people of that section have been petitioning for, nor, if I am correctly informed, what they have been promised.

Voted Wrong!

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we witnessed a wonderful spectacle in this House. On this side of the House we presented a resolution expressing our opinion that this branch railway should run between certain specified points. The resolution was amended by the hon. member from Mount Stewart (Mr. Clark); and there was so little difference between the amendment and the motion that we on this side of the House would have been quite satisfied to withdraw our motion and support the amendment. The only difference was as to where the railway line would come out, whether at Piquid Station or Jay's Crossing. It did not matter very much; we both had the same idea. But no! that did not suit my hon. friends in the Government benches at all. I don't know how it was, but the whole thing was thrown out. There was a resolution, sponsored, I think, by my hon. friend from the Fourth District of Prince, which was put through; and what did it mean? An innocuous vote of thanks to the Dominion Government for what they were doing in connection with the railways of this Province, and letting them do precisely as they liked; expressing no views, but killing both propositions as contained in the motion and the amendment. That is what happened. And my hon. friend from Mount Stewart (Mr. Clark) got so confused between the motions and the amendments that, according to his own admissions, he didn't vote right. Of course he didn't vote right! We all know that. The people of Fort Augustus know how he voted on that occasion. It is a matter now between him as representative of the district and the people who have been working for years for a certain object and have been deprived of reasonable recognition when the opportunity came around. (Applause.)

The Federal Government has undertaken to build that line as it saw fit; and so far as rumor goes they are making a sorry mess of it. I understand that the contractor has had no experience in building work of this kind; and if you judge by the reports of the equipment that he has the way that he is handling his men, that branch line will never be built by him. They will have to get some of the "business-like methods" that are in vogue in the Public Works Department of this Province, if they intend finishing it as they purpose doing.

Public Health

There is another section in the Speech which I am particularly interested in. It reads as follows: "My Government is devoting special attention to public health. Tenders are being called for the construction of a modern sanatorium, which, it is expected, will be completed by the first of November next."

I suppose that is all right. They may as well put that in the Speech as the other matters that I have referred to. But anyone reading this paragraph would naturally infer that this Government is calling for tenders for the Sanatorium. We know, Mr. Speaker, that that is not the case. Tenders are being called by the Sanatorium Commission which was appointed by the Government, and the Government has nothing what-

ever to do with it. Why didn't the author of this Speech detail some of the things that they have been devoting special attention to during the past year? The activities of the Provincial Health Officer, for instance, could have been given. We know that he is doing his work as best he can under special handicaps; that he is going about the Province examining tuberculosis cases, and that the story is the same sad story which has been detailed in this House for many years, and which is no news to the medical profession. We know that there are a great number of cases of tuberculosis in this Province, and that the Sanatorium cannot be built too quickly; because we believe it will be of some help in trying to battle with this dread disease.

There has been some work done during the past year in the matter of public health; but this work has been accomplished largely through the efforts of the Red Cross Society. I think it has been the most wonderful year in the record of that splendid organization; a great amount of work was done. Last year, with the co-operation of the Red Cross Society, of Dr. Creelman and the medical men of the Province, over 6,000 school children were vaccinated in the country districts throughout the Province. Now that is something beneficial. In Charlottetown and Summerside we have been very insistent; we will not allow any children to attend the public schools unless they are properly vaccinated or unless they sign the declaration provided for under the Public Health Act that they have conscientious scruples against vaccination. Last year in amending the School Act we deleted the clause regarding optional attendance. For many years past, in Charlottetown and Summerside, pupils could attend school a little more than half time. The School Act provided that let-way. We gradually eliminated that, the last change being made last year under this Government, so that now, in Charlottetown and Summerside, pupils must be in school every day unless excused, as provided by the Act, for reasons of illness or poverty. That is probably one of the reasons why the Premier was able to refer to the attendance in the public schools as being better last year. We ought to be getting some results from the measures adopted. I believe we are, and I believe it was the proper thing to do.

Vaccination Campaign

Previous to last year, outside of Charlottetown and Summerside there was only 15 per cent of the school children of the Province vaccinated. With the numbers that have been vaccinated last year, this percentage has risen to about 80; and another campaign such as was put on last year will take care of the remainder. That is something to be proud of. I know that this Government provided the vaccine; and that the Government Health Officer went out and did his full share of the work. I know, too, that a good deal of credit must be given to the people of this Province who responded so well to the campaign; also to the physicians who spent a great deal of time in doing the work. There was the utmost co-operation among all concerned, such as there should be in an important matter of this kind.

The hon. member from Abram's Village (Mr. Darby) referred to the toxoid campaign as if it were a measure for which this Government should receive every credit. That, of course, is incorrect; the campaign was inaugurated by the City of Charlottetown. We discussed, for the past

year or so, the matter of inoculating the children of Charlottetown against diphtheria, but we never got around to it until January of this year. It was the physicians of this city who did the work; it was the Red Cross nurses who looked after the patients, sterilized the needles, etc., and it was the City Council of Charlottetown that paid for the toxoid. The children of Charlottetown were treated first, although I believe there were some isolated cases done in the country. Summerside, I understand, is now being attended to; perhaps Montague as well. I suppose the Government is paying for the toxoid in cases outside the city. I do not know about that. It is not a very expensive undertaking in any case, because out of the \$500 voted by the City Council of Charlottetown to carry out the work in this city, I do not think that over \$300 was used.

measures in the interests of public health; but they are not due to this Government. I give the Government full credit for what they are doing, but I will also see that other organizations get full credit. It has been a matter of co-operation all around (To be Continued.)

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—By George McManus

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