THE GROWING TIME

Fielding wants $72,604,463 for Nine Months, at the rate of $96,800,000 a year, whereas in 1897 $43,000,000 was sufficient—Strange Career of Philip Wagner—Convicted of Fraud and Theft while in Office—Five Times in the Criminal Court and served Two Terms with Hard Labor

DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT

WHEN OLIVER BECOMES MINISTER HE REWARDS WAGNER WITH TWO OFFICES AND DOUBLE THE FORMER SALARY—AFTER WHICH WAGNER DEVOTES MUCH TIME TO MACHINE POLITICS, AND SUPPLIES GALICIANS WITH CAMPAIGN BEER—MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENT VOTES TO RETAIN WAGNER IN OFFICE AND ALSO COMMENDS THE MONCTON LAND DEAL—HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE BUYS 270 DOZEN STEEL FILES WHICH WERE SHIPPED TO YOUNG PREFONTAINE FOR HIS SAW MILL—STRUBBE BOUGHT THEM FOR $2,315, AND TURNED THEM OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR $4,786.

Ottawa, June 23, 1906.

During the past week the House of Commons has voted more supply, made some progress with the Lord's Day bill, and voted down several motions censuring improper transactions. The Arctic investigating committee has proceeded under difficulties owing to the refusal of the majority to allow the investigation to proceed in certain directions. The Public Accounts Committee had made discoveries which should be of interest to the unhappy tax payer.

WAGNER THE CAMPAIGNER.

One of the motions voted down in the House of Commons related to Philip Wagner, whose dramatic history may be recorded here. Philip Wagner is a man of European birth, familiar with several languages, also with a gift for winning the confidence of ignorant people, as well as the favor of a certain type of politicians. Previous to 1899 Wagner had been residing in Edmonton, and according to the statement made by Mr. Oliver last year, he worked for the government in such a way as to make himself quite offensive to the other party. His sphere of influence was among the Galician and Russian people, whose language he spoke, and whom he persuaded at election times.

WAGNER THE PUBLIC OFFICER.

In December, 1898, Mr. Oliver, now Minister of the Interior, and then representing Alberta, had Wagner appointed government interpreter at $30 a month. It would seem that he was at the same time carrying on a tailoring business, and through the same influence was engaged to supply uniforms for the government. Wagner entered upon his duties in January, 1899. By the next year his salary was increased to $40 a month and he wanted more. In the meantime the had already begun to take advantage of the confidence of the simple Galician emigrants. During the second year Abbe Olszewski, Roman Catholic missionary at Beaver Lake, wrote to the government making complaint that Wagner was abusing the confidence of the poor Galician. He did not assist them at the land office. He had taken $275 from one man to put in the bank and had kept it himself. He had sent $729 to Hamburg for another Galician to have it changed, and kept the proceeds. He had received money from many immigrants to make their payments upon land entries and used it for his own purposes, cheating the ignorant victim by giving him a useless slip of stamped paper.

PLUNDERING THE STRANGERS.

In the spring of 1900 Wagner was accused of stealing $75 given him by an immigrant to be sent to his wife. This time he escaped conviction. The same thing happened when he was charged with stealing $10 from an immigrant farmer. In November, 1900, the Secretary of the Interior Department had occasion to write to Wagner to remind him that he had taken $7 long before from an immigrant to pay the freight on his baggage. The money had not been paid and the baggage was still held by the steamship Company. Five times the department wrote to Wagner on this matter, the letters growing more threatening at the end of the year 1900. Twice Wagner declared that he had forwarded the money, giving different dates, and both statements evidently false. He seems never to have paid it and finally the Government admitted liability, paid the money and the Galician family got their clothes sometime before the end of the winter.

OLIVER TO THE RESCUE.

At the beginning of 1901, Mr. Oliver, who had been assisted by Wagner in the elections of 1900, wrote asking for an increase of pay for his friend. The Department replied that Wagner's dealings with the Galicians were not so satisfactory as to justify the demand. In March, 1901, Wagner was committed for trial for stealing the money mentioned above as sent to Hamburg for exchange. About the same time the commissioner of immigration in the West said he had received information which compelled him to recommend Wagner's dismissal. It may be said here that the Jury disagreed on the charge of stealing.

WAGNER CONVICTED AND SENT TO PRISON.

Two other criminal cases began with information laid in March and came to trial at Edmonton in July 1901. On July 18, Wagner was convicted of inducing an ignorant Galician to sign a lien note for $25 under a false pretence. The foreigner, who could not speak English, gave Wagner $25 and the note also in connection with the purchase of a cow, in which transaction he had sought Wagner's help. For this fraud Wagner was sentenced to two months in prison with hard labor. The next day he was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labor for stealing $80 given him by a confiding fellow countryman to deposit in the bank.

DISMISSED FROM OFFICE.

Meanwhile the Government had been purchasing uniforms from Wagner and held up the pay for some of them pending the settlement of claims. In April, 1901, the department of justice at Ottawa was seeking information and evidence from the interior department records to assist in the prosecution of Wagner for retaining some of the money received from confiding Galicians to pay for homesteads. The interior department reported that Wagner had sent no money and no applications from Wagner. But as the officer was in jail before this prosecution reached a head the department of the interior was content with dismissing Wagner. The local commissioner was ordered to notify Wagner that his official career had ended May 31st, 1901. Commissioner Smith replied that notice had been given at once, but Wagner nevertheless continued to draw pay until the end of June or a few days before he went to hard labor at Fort Saskatchewan. This was because Mr. Oliver again interposed and declared, apparently on Wagner's high authority, that his friend had never received notice.

WAGNER NOW GETS TWO OFFICES.

After his release Wagner returned to Edmonton where he resumed business and politics. He was there during the election of 1904, and in April, 1905, when Mr. Oliver became minister of the interior. In less than three months after Mr. Oliver became minister he had Wagner appointed, not to one office at $30 or $40, but to two, at $25 and $75, a total of $100 a month. Mr. Wagner's dealings with the Galician homesteaders had been so satisfactory to the minister that he was made land agent. His treatment of the poor immigrants was rewarded by a re-appointment as government interpreter.

WAGNER AND OLIVER IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

In the provincial election of Alberta in November, 1905. Mr. Wagner and Mr. Oliver took an active part, though Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given a solemn undertaking in parliament that government officials in the West should not be allowed to interfere in politics. An affidavit sent to the government and afterwards read in the house, showed that Wagner devoted his whole time for three months to campaign work among the Galicians. A foreign boarding-house keeper affirmed that he had been engaged by Wagner and well paid to gather a crowd of Galicians at two campaign meetings and afterwards to supply them at his own house with two barrels of beer on each occasion. So prominent was Wagner on this occasion that Mr. Oliver was asked about it in an Edmonton campaign meeting. The minister defiantly replied that Wagner was in public employ, and that though he had been in jail he was punished as much because he was a Liberal worker as for anything else. Yet the records show that Wagner was prosecuted by officials appainted by the government.

DECEIVING THE HOUSE.

Lastly, Mr. Oliver was guilty of deception when on March 14, 1906, he was asked in the House whether Philip Wagner, an employee of his Department, had ever been convicted and sent to prison. Mr. Oliver's answer was "there is nothing on record in the Department of the Interior to show that P. Wagner ever served any time in prison." Mr. Oliver had several days' notice of this question and framed his answer deliberately. He knew of Wagner's imprisonment for he had discussed it a few weeks before at the public meeting at Edmonton, At the time that Wagner was tried at Edmonton Mr. Oliver was trying to get the government to pay him for the time following his dismissal from the service. Because the House was not then informed of the fact Oliver made a substantially incorrect statement, taking advantage of the fact that the record was in the Department of Justice and not his own.

PARLIAMENT ENDORSES WAGNER.

It only remains to be said that on Tuesday George W. Fowler, M. P., for King's, New Brunswick, set forth all the above facts closing with the motion that Mr. Wagner should be forthwith dismissed, or if he denied the statements that an investigation be held in regard to them. Mr. Oliver opposed the motion, violently charged that the members supporting it were guilty of "gutter snipe politics," and asked the House to vote down the resolution. The majority of the House kindly did so on the usual party division.

THE GROWING TIME.

Mr. Fielding has brought down a second list of estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year beginning next month. As the dates are to be changed the period covered in these estimates is only nine months. The Finance Minister asks for $4,667,916.71. In the main estimates he had taken $67,936,547.70, making a total of $72,604,464, which would be at the rate of $96,805,752 for twelve months.

For the year closing with this month Mr. Fieldibg has estimated the expenditure at $82,000,000, which shows an intention to increase the pace for the next nine months.

Let us take note of this growing time. For the ten years before the change of Government the outlay had varied from a little less than $41,000,000 up to $45,000,000. The following record shows what has happened since:

1897	$42,972,755
1898	45,334,281
1899	51,542,635
1900	52,717,466
1901	57,982,866
1902	63,970,799
1903	61,746,571
1904	72,255,047
1905	78,804,138
1906	82,000,000
1907 estimated & voted	96,805,952

THE MONCTON RAKE OFF.

On Thursday evening the question of the Moncton land purchase already fully explained in this correspondence, was before the House, Mr. Ames of the St. Antoine division, Montreal, presented the case was showing how the go-between made a profit of $8,585 on land which he purchased a few weeks before at a cost for land and expenses of $5,375. Mr. Emmerson supported by the Finance Minister contended that the transaction was all right. At their request the House by a straight party majority endorsed the transaction.

A DEAL IN FILES.

Early this session curiosity was excited over an item in the Auditor's report which shows that the Marine department had bought $4,786.45 worth of tool steel and of files such as are used in saw mills and machine shops. The lowest price of these files went up to $14 per dozen. Tool steel cost 45 cents per pound. Not only was the price excessive, but the order of 270 dozen or 3,240 instruments was surprisingly large. No one could understand what the Marine department intended to file with all these tools. The public accounts committee called the deputy, the engineers, and other officers. All said that no requisition for these tools had come in and that the order was far beyond any prospective demand. They only knew that the order had been given and that they were asked to distribute the goods.

HOW THE FILES CAME TO CANADA.

Friday morning brought to the witness stand a montreal lawyer, Mr. Busteed—from whom Mr. Barker obtained some explanation. This is his testimony:

In the spring of 1904 Mr. Busteed was asked by a firm in France to collect an account for some $5,000 worth of files and steel against Rolland Prefontaine, son of the Minister of Marine, and proprietor of a mill at Ste. Agathe. Young Prefontaine repudiated the order and refused to take the goods. The lawyer pointed out to his French clients that the process of collection might be tedious and costly. He spoke to Hon. Mr. Prefontaine asking him in vain to assist in effecting a settlement. Ultimately, one Mr. Shrubbe, of Montreal, told Mr. Busteed that he would take the consignment if the firm would let him have the goods at half price, and would pay him a commission of $500 besides. Rather than go on with the suit the exporters accepted the offer.

100 PER CENT. PROFIT.

Having acquired the hardware for $2,315.45 Mr. Shrubbe immediately turned the goods over to Mr. Prefontaine's department for $4,786.85, making a sudden profit of $2,470.90, or 107 per cent. It will be seen that Mr. Shrubbe, of Montreal, like Mr. Lodge, of Moncton, had a happy foresight. He judged beforehand that the government would need all these files at the particular time, and would be willing to pay twice the price which the seller would accept. An ordinary man would not have known that the department needed exactly the supply of files that had been shipped for Rolland Prefontaine's mill, needed them at the time when the purchase relieved the legal situation, and was prepared to pay a price which left with the middleman more than half the total amount.

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INSPECTOR STEVEN'S REPORT OF WEST VICTORIA SCHOOL

A RECORD OF IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.—TEACHERS' SALARIES.—LEGISLATIVE GRANTS TO TOWNSHIPS—ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

The fourth annual report of Inspector W. H. Stevens, of West Victoria schools was presented to the county council, dated June 11,1906. It contains much valuable information, and it is as follows:

GENERAL.

I may say that since my last report to you in 1905, there has been steady progress made in the way of improving the general condition of the schools. New floors have been put in, new seats of modern kind have been secured and new maps and new blackboards have added to the equipment. Some twenty schools have bought libraries for the general reading of the pupils.

BUILDINGS.

At No. 1 Carden, last summer, there was completed a new frame building, replacing the old log building that had done duty for nearly forty years. The new building is well arranged, nicely furnished, and well ventilated. It is a building that the people may justly be proud of.

At No. 5, Dalton, a new frame building was erected in 1905. It is very small, but the work appears to be well done. There is no way of ventilation except by opening windows and doors. The trustees refused to arrange for any plan of ventilation, although strongly urged to do so.

Of the sixty-five buildings in West Victoria, 41 are brick, 19 are frame, 3 stone and 2 log.

To bring the buildings up to first-class standing, quite a lot of improvement still remains to be done. The greatest need is a good plan of ventilation. As many of the buildings are at present, the air does not properly circulate in the rooms, leaving parts of the rooms cold while other parts are too hot.

EQUIPMENT.

There has been a marked improvement in the general equipment of the schools during the past year. New maps have been secured in a large number of schools, new blackboards in several, and other apparatus in some. I hope the time may soon come when it will be fully realized that a school cannot be worked to the best advantage without the best kind of apparatus to work with. As it is, improvement has been made, and the children of the county are getting the benefit to that extent, so that there is encouragement, that in time, a first-class standing may be looked for.

In several cases new hardwood floors have been put in which greatly facilitates the matter of keeping the rooms in a clean and in a sanitary condition.

TEACHERS.

Fully qualified teachers continue very scarce, and it has not been possible this year to secure enough to fill the places, consequently a number of temporary certificates had to be secured, from the Education Department, for young ladies to take charge of the schools. The greatest care possible has been exercised in selecting young ladies to take the schools where fully qualified teachers could not be secured, and yet one is forced to the conclusion, in some such cases, that mistakes have been made.

Generally the teachers in the county are doing good work, and in the cases where good work is not being done, it is partly, at least, the want of good equipment, and comfortable surroundings.

In 1905 the average salary for male teachers was $448, for female $313. In 1906 the average is, for males $444 and for females $320.

Of the 76 teachers in West Victoria 2 hold first class certificates, 26 hold second class, 36 hold third class, 2 hold district, and 10 hold temporary certificates.

THE NEW SCHOOL LAW.

At last meeting of Legislature there were material changes made in the school law that are intended to improve the condition of schools and teachers.

Normal schools are to take the place of most of the model schools in the province. It is believed that this change will improve the professional training of the teachers and tend to make the profession more permanent.

Increased grants will be given to the schools, and a change made in the way of the distribution of these grants. After the present year the grants will be distributed on the bases of the value of the equipment, the character of the accommodation, and the salary paid to the teachers.

It is too soon for one to say how all the changes in the act will affect the schools, but I hope the changes will be a distinct benefit to all and a hardship to none.

UNIFORM PROMOTION AND MONTHLY REPORTS.

At the last teachers' convention, the teachers of West Victoria unanimously decided to accept a uniform promotion for the inspectorate. After careful consideration it was concluded that a uniform promotion examination would be of benefit in the way of leveling up the work in all the schools. In the past, in West Victoria, promotion has been made by the teachers in the schools, and from local causes, or the difference in judgment of the teachers, the promotions from book to book have not been as uniform as one would wish, so it was decided to try the plan adopted in many other inspectorates, East Victoria included, of a uniform plan of promotion from book to book.

It was also decided by a great majority of the teachers present to issue monthly reports of the standing of the pupils to the parents. This has not been done in the past, only in a few schools. It was thought by those who took part in the discussion, that the reports would tend to secure a better average attendance of pupils, and at the same time bring the work of the schools more prominently before the notice of the parents of the children.

I believe there is a small allowance made by the council for part of the cost of printing the papers for promotion examinations in East Victoria, and I hope you will see your way clear to grant the same for West Victoria.

GRANTS.

This year the general legislative grants to the different townships is about the same as last year. For comparison I give the amounts:

Tp.	1905	1906
Bexley	$103	$ 94
Carden	82	84
Dalton	63	63
Eldon	331	296
Fenelon	267	239
Laxton, Digby and Longford	87	83
Mariposa	445	432

In addition to the above grants for 1906 there is a special grant to the above named townships, intended to help in equipping the schools and in general repairs. This grant for the year 1906 is to be divided equally among the schools, and is supposed to be supplemented by a grant from the county of an equal amount.

Township	Special Grant	County Equivalent.	Total.
Bexley	$48	$48	$96
Carden	43	43	86
Dalton	32	32	64
Eldon	150	150	300
Fenelon	121	121	242
Laxton, Digby and Longford	42	42	84
Mariposa	219	219	438

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

The following is the result of the entrance examination in West Victoria:

Exam. Center.	No. That wrote.	No. That passed.
Little Britain	18	8
Fenelon Falls	55	30
Kirkfield	15	8
Woodville	20	10
Oakwood	24	12
Totals	132	68

TORONTO NEWS' OPINION ON MR. KNIGHT'S REPORT

MR. KNIGHT CORRECTS A FALSE IMPRESSION IN REGARD TO TEACHERS.

The Toronto News of Friday comments editorially on the report of Mr. J. H. Knight, inspector for East Victoria, referring to the items dealing with public examinations and the decline of spelling and punctuation. Mr. Knight was misunderstood by the News as to his statement about the standing of teachers. The News editorial and Mr. Knight's reply are published herewith:

LOOKING BACKWARD.

Mr. J. H. Knight, Public School Inspector for East Victoria, has transmitted to the County Council a remarkable annual report. After urging the advisability of re-establishing the Public Examinations of twenty years ago, he makes the statement that during the year two teachers with long experience have retired. Their places are filled by young men fresh from the Model School, while ten of the schools in his inspectorate are taught by unqualified teachers holding permits. This is because of the alleged scarcity of certificated professionals.

Mr. Knight looks back with fondness on the days of yore, and says that spelling, punctuation and the division of words into syllables are not taught properly now. To prove his contention he makes "a horrible example" out of the daily and weekly newspapers, pointing us all to The London Times, which at one time offered a guinea for every typographical error that could be discovered. Last of all, the Inspectorate finds no favor in the abolition of the Model Schools and the dividing of teachers into only two grades. He prefers even the ancient nine-grade system of certification from "County Board Third Class" to "Normal School First A."

We do not believe the public examination was ever an educative force. Timid children shrank from its very publicity, dull children feared the exposure of their "stupidity," and the bold and clever children were encouraged to display their boldness and their cleverness, to the swelling of the infant head and the glorification of the empirical ego. As an examination it was generally useless. The teacher, anxious for his pupils to "make a good showing," propounded no "regular posers," and hastened from the scholastic portion of the examination to the elocutionary portion. Then the wild-eyed boy in a state of nervous perspiration recited the address of Spartacus to the Gladiators, and the infantile female in the pink sash lisped, to the unbounded admiration of her relatives, the classic lines of Mary's Lamb.

We quite agree with Mr. Knight in his regret that so few teachers remain in the profession. We believe it is a real drawback to the educational system of this Province, and we sincerely trust that the new regulations providing for a more liberal remuneration will check in some measure at least the emigration from the school teacher's desk to the counting room.

But we beg leave to differ when the spelling and punctuation of modern pupils is attacked. Examination papers of 1850 and 1904 were compared recently in New York, when it was found that the average school boy of to-day was better educated in the three R's, which includes spelling, than the average lad of fifty years ago. The newspapers can provide no fair example, for twenty or thirty years ago it made no difference whether the "news" in the papers was a day, a week or a month old. If Mr. Knight had looked for proof of scholarship in the magazines he would have been fairer. They are closer to the ideals of the press of 1860 ar 1870, and lack the strenuosity and wild hurry which marks the collection of news to-day.

Mr. Knight's sigh for the old certificates of nine grades—must be a lonely one. We favor the abolition of Model Schools, because a year's training in a Normal School is necessary to lay a solid foundation of theory, upon which the teacher can rest his practice. The model school graduate teaches at a disadvantage, for he can have no technique, and must experiment blindly before deciding on his course. Experiments are always costly.—Toronto News.

"LOOKING BACKWARD."

To the Editor of the News,

Sir,—As many persons who have not read my report may see your article on the above subject, kindly permit me, first, to point out where you have misquoted me, and secondly, to make a few remarks on matters in which, for once, you and I differ in opinion.

First, I did not say that the places of two teachers, one of 35 and the other of 25 years' experience, were filled by young men fresh from the Model School, but that five positions usually filled by experienced teachers were so filled now. Then I did not say I preferred the nine-grade system of certification, but I mentioned the fact that at one time there were nine grades, now there are three, with the prospect of only two.

Secondly, your experience of public examinations must have been singularly unfortunate. I have seen good ones and poor ones, but the worst were likely to do more good than harm. I know of nothing so well calculated to encourage a sympathy between parents and teacher. The late Rev. Father Stafford was a frequent visitor on such occasions. The law requires every teacher to hold two public examinations a year. The law should not be a dead letter.

With respect to spelling, etc., which should be more convincing, an article in a New York paper or what we see every day with our own eyes? I mentioned newspapers, not magazines, because I understand the typesetting of newspapers is done by boys or young men lately from the schools, while the magazines are the work of experienced hands.

I do not object to New Normal Schools. What I say, is, you cannot take beginners, teach them what you like, and turn them out as they would be if they had had three years' experience before entering. Beginners must start somewhere. Let them take the small schools where time is not of so much consequence as in large ones.

J. H. KNIGHT

Lindsay, June 25th, 1906.

VICTORIA CHEESE BOARD 1408 LBS. SOLD AT 11 1-8

THE BUYERS WERE FLAVELLE, GILLESPIE AND BROWN, WHO CLEANED UP THE TOTAL AMOUNT BOARDED.

The Victoria cheese board met on Monday morning at 11 o'clock in the council chamber. The session was a short one and the whole market sold at 11⅛ cents. The following output was boarded:

Star	100	N. Ops	70
Cameron	50	Reaboro	154
Dunsford	102	N. Harvey	60
Mariposa	90	Bobcaygeon	160
Cambray	75	Maple Leaf	80
Omemee	145	Palestine	65
N. Verulam	102	Red Rock	155
Total			1408

Bidding started at 10⅞ cents, but was quickly raised to 11⅛, where it stopped. Mr. Wm. Flavelle having the first choice of the lot, he bought Bobcaygeon, North Harvey, North Verulam, Red Rock, Palestine, Omemee and Reaboro, 841 lbs., at 11⅛.

Mr. Gillespie bought Star, Dunsford, North Ops, and Maple Leaf, 352 lbs., also at 11⅛, the balance, Cameron, Cambray and Mariposa, 215 lbs., going to Mr. Brown at the same price.

The next meeting of the board will be held on Monday, June 9.

Laying of Corner Stone of Brock Township Hall

Tuesday, June 19th, 1906, is a day that will live for years in the memory of the good people of the township of Brock, and one that will form part of the history of Brock township for the next generation. The occasion was that of the laying of the corner stone of the new township hall at Sunderland, at 2.30 p.m., Tuesday, June 19th, 1906, by the Hon. J. W. St. John, the present speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, and a native of Brock township, assisted by Dr. Gillespie, of Cannington, reeve and council of Brock and other leading citizens. The day was all that could be desired and the crowd large and everything of the most pleasant. Cannington citizens band, which had been engaged for the occasion, dispensed music during the day and was much appreciated by all.

After the ceremony concluded, a program of sports was witnessed in the park.

This is the range that bakes better because the diffusive oven flue draws in cold air from the kitchen-floor, carries it around the oven, and pours it HOT down into the oven FROM THE TOP in a current that moves all round the whole oven and up and out the flue. When that clean, hot air leaves the oven it takes with it all the moisture, all the odors, which in OTHER ovens stay in and saturate the baking food. Perfect draft control, perfect oven, draw-out oven rack for easy basting,—all points singular to

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