

The Carleton Sentinel

F. B. CARVELL, PRESIDENT.

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PATRIOTIC POTATOES.

Despite the very fishy looking statement published in the Auditor General's report and the boasting of the graft press in connection therewith, the patriotic potato scandal will not down. The Government in its published statement admits that 13,712 barrels of patriotic potatoes in excess of the quantity required were purchased, but claims that they were disposed of by sale and that the province lost \$1,954.70 by the transaction. It also admits that 11,946 of the 13,712 barrels were furnished by B. Frank Smith, M.P.P., at \$1.10 and \$1.05 per barrel while another concern which supplied 232 barrels, was paid at the rate of 80 cents. It is also admitted that 15,739 barrels forwarded to the Belgians cost altogether the sum of \$17,456.54, while the 13,712 barrels which the Government disposed of by sale, presumably in Cuba, cost \$35,418.59, and only \$1,954.70 was lost by the province in the transaction. A very good story for the marines, but it will scarcely go down with those who know something of the methods of doing business of this "business like" government.

The Government's statement is put forward as a complete answer to the charges made by the Opposition that a large percentage of the money appropriated for the purchase of patriotic potatoes found its way into the pockets of henchmen of the Government, and that there was the rankest kind of jobbery in connection with the transaction. The statement set forth that after the Belgians had been provided for, 13,712 barrels of potatoes were left over, the first cost of which is given as \$14,965.70. No mention is made of some sixteen carloads condemned by the inspectors and the public is left to infer that this report was incorrect. In addition to giving the cost of the potatoes as \$14,965.70, the charges for sorting, barreling, shipping, freight, commissions, etc., are put down at \$20,452.89, which brings the total cost of the 13,712 barrels up to \$35,418.59. Now the Government has the impudence to claim that these were sold for the sum of \$32,861.39 and that the loss to the province was therefore only \$1,954.70. This statement does not say where the potatoes were sold, or who bought them, but the public are asked to believe that in a year when potatoes went begging at 40 and 50 cents a barrel, the officials of the Agricultural Department succeeded in finding a market for a large quantity which bungling and mismanagement had left on the Government's hands. If the statement is correct, it means that the Government was able to sell potatoes at a little less than \$2.50 per barrel at a time when private shippers could not dispose of them except at a loss.

The Government is insulting the intelligence of the people by this province by putting forth such an absurd statement and asking them to accept it as true. What right, may we ask, had the Government to appear in the role of a shiner of potatoes? How did it come to have 13,712 barrels of potatoes on its hands? Who gave it authority to buy potatoes for shipment to the Cuban market in connection with men who make a business of that sort of thing. There was no legislative authority, and the Lieutenant Governor's warrants under which the money was obtained certainly gave the Government no license to go into the potato business. On the contrary, the warrant distinctly stipulated that the money was to be expended for potatoes for the use of the army and navy "as a token of the loyalty of the people of this province to the Motherland."

The first appropriation of \$75,000 having been found insufficient to defray the cost of 100,000 bushels of potatoes, a second warrant for \$75,000 was issued, and His Honor distinctly set forth over his signature that "the said amount shall be placed by you to a special account, against which a check or checks may be issued as required for payment of the said deficiency in paying the expenses of said gift of potatoes and the transportation thereof, AND THE BALANCE TO ASSIST THE BELGIAN PEOPLE AND FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE WHATSOEVER."

The Government statement of receipts from the sale of the surplus potatoes was evidently cooked up for the purpose of deceiving the people, but it will fail in its purpose. Instead of believing that the Government sold 13,712 barrels of potatoes last spring for the sum of \$32,861.39, the people will be more apt to accept as true the report which has been in circulation for some time past, that certain swine-troglers who robbed the province of large sums of money in connection with this scandalous transaction were—after the exposure made by the opposition—taken by the scruff of the neck and compelled to disgorge a goodly portion of their ill-gotten gains. If this patriotic potato transaction was straight and above board, why did the Government refuse to allow Commissioner Chandler to investigate it?

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES, ETC.

Editor Sentinel: The following is from the Woodstock Press of March 21st.

"In the Leg'sature on Wednesday Hon Mr Baxter was explaining the proposed changes in the election law, and the duties of sheriffs, when B. Frank Smith enquired 'If any provision was being made to meet the case of a bible being stolen from court houses.' The question of 'who stole the bible' will not down even after many years."

The Press does not refer to logs stolen from the St. John river for the purpose of building a church in which to keep the bible.

COME AGAIN.

The Government bill now before the Legislature proposes to take away from the Municipal Councils the right to appoint electoral revisors. Under the present system the duty is performed by two county councillors and a third member appointed by the government, who acts as chairman. Under the proposed amendment to the law the Government appoints the chairman, the local members appoint the revisor, and the defeated candidate another. The privilege which the County Council has of paying all but the chairman will of course not be interfered with.

A young Johnville soldier, writing from England, to his mother says "I bought a pair of socks for sixty cents and found in them a card with the name of a woman in Woodstock." He adds "Send parcels to Army P. O., London, direct."

The mother, daughter or sister that made this pair of socks, did not think when she placed that little card in them, that one of our bravest sons would be asked to pay sixty cents for the little gift. It almost looks like positive proof that the comfort sent to soldiers often get into the hands of unscrupulous persons.

The thermometer dropped to twenty degrees below zero Tuesday night. When it that time robin reported in town last week?

The Woodstock Press still labors under the belief that Mr. J. Kidd Fleming will be permitted to contest Carleton for the Federal Parliament at the next election. In its last issue it boasts of the great things which Fleming is going to do, to Carvell when he meets him at the polls. The editor of the Press should follow the example of other Tory editors and go to Ottawa occasionally in quest of "inspiration"—Mail

The Gagetown Board of Trade at a meeting Monday night adopted a set of resolutions condemning the Government for the intention to abandon the original route of the Valley Railway. The Woodstock Board of Trade has always been very active in dealing with railway matters that concern the business interests of the town and vicinity, and will no doubt take some action on the present scheme so far as outlined.

Mr B. Frank Smith inquired if any provision was being made to meet the case of Bibles being stolen from the court house.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"We can't provide for all the irregularities which take place in your country." And he might have added—"In which you have won undying fame by your 'patriotic' potato industry."

REV. M. T. MURPHY POPULAR PRIEST AT DEBEC GOES TO ST. MARY'S

The New Pastor at Debec Will be Rev. C. J. McLaughlin

The St. John Telegraph announces that Rev. Michael T. Murphy, of Debec, has been appointed rector of St. Anthony's church at St. Mary's in succession to Rev. J. J. Ryan who is now pastor of St. Gertrude's, Woodstock.

Father Murphy was educated in the St. John schools, and from the old Grammar School went to St. Joseph's University. There he made an excellent course and was graduated with honors and the degree of B. A. in 1895. He then went to the Grand Seminary, Quebec, where he made a brilliant course in theology. He was ordained in July 16, 1898, in the Cathedral by the late Bishop Sweeney.

After three years, Father Murphy was appointed parish priest of Debec, succeeding Rev. F. L. Carney, who had become pastor of St. Dunstan's, Fredericton.

Rev. C. J. McLaughlin, who for some time has most efficiently edited the New Freeman, will succeed Rev. Michael T. Murphy as pastor of the Catholic church in Debec, and all the missions and stations.

BATH. The funeral of Mrs. Martha Cox was held in the Methodist Church on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Cox was the oldest resident of this place, having passed her ninety-seventh birthday. The deceased was the widow of the late Bert Cox who passed away some twenty years ago. Rev. G. A. Ross conducted the funeral service and, in speaking of the extreme age of the deceased, mentioned that, having been born in the year 1819, she had lived during the reign of six British sovereigns. Mrs. Cox left no family.

Dr. J. B. Gallagher left on Thursday for Montreal where he will continue his medical course.

Miss Mary Parke is visiting friends in Woodstock.

Mr. George Meisner returned on Thursday, after having spent some time at his home in Nova Scotia.

Miss Hazel Campbell of Stanley came to Bath on Tuesday to act as stenographer for Wm. P. Stapleford who has opened an office here.

Mrs. Edward Caldwell spent a few days with her sister, Mrs. Parke, before joining her husband and again in



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St. John. Miss Katherine Bohan left on Thursday for St. Stephen to attend the funeral of her aunt there.

A recruiting meeting was held here last evening under the charge of recruiting officer T. C. L. Kelchum, and was very largely attended. Speakers were Mr. Kitchum, Rev. G. A. Ross and F. C. Atkinson. Seven names were added to the list of recruits.

Speaking of the great scenic production "The Birth of a Nation," Richard Harding Davis, war correspondent, says: "It is like real war. For the first time in a theatre a battle scene has been presented as it really is."

THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIFT

No. 1 Canadian General Hospital, A. P. O. 511, B.E.F., France, Feb. 25th, 1916.

Dr. A. H. Prescott, Woodstock, N. B.

Dear Dr. Prescott,— I am in receipt of your letter announcing that you have sent a cheque for fifty dollars, to the Bank of Montreal, London, to be used for the purposes of No. 1 Canadian General Hospital.

I have also received a communication from the Bank of Montreal, stating that this amount had been placed to my credit.

Will you please accept my best thanks for this generous gift. I shall have much pleasure in carrying out your wishes as regards its disposal. I think you would be greatly pleased and impressed with the Medical facilities and the work that is done

at the front. It is a great pleasure to work under such favorable circumstances as those under which we are fortunately placed.

Again thanking you and with kindest regards, Yours very sincerely, MURRAY MACLAREN.

Quarters for the battery, to be mobilized here, are about completed and it is expected that the officers will arrive here during next week. No official announcement has yet been made of who will be in command.

OBITUARY

FRANK WEEKS.

Frank Weeks who had been a cripple for the past twenty-five years, passed away at the home of his brother George, on Thursday morning. Deceased was 62 years of age, is survived by two daughters and one son—Robert in the west, Ann of New York, and Capitola of Lynn; also two sisters and six brothers—Mrs. George Mitchell, Chatham, Mass.; Mrs. Arthur Silcox, Lowell; Fred and Robert, New York; Ben of Boston; Avon of Lowell, Charles of Lynn, and George of Woodstock. Funeral service will be held Saturday afternoon, the Rev. H. S. Dow officiating.

MRS. SUSAN A. EDWARDS.

Mrs. Susan A. Edwards passed away Thursday morning after a long illness, aged 77 years and 8 months. She was a member of the Baptist church. The funeral will be held Saturday 2 p.m. Rev. F. L. Orchard officiating. One daughter, Mrs. R. S. Welch survives.

Personal Auto Talks. No. 10

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R. L. PHILLIPS

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