

## THE DAILY MAIL

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) at 613 Queen Street, Fredericton, by THE MAIL PRINTING COMPANY.

Subscription Price, \$3.00 per year.  
Telephone 67.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1916

But under the circumstances I determined that the Government was right, and I determined to place at its disposal whatever influence I had with my fellow-countrymen. I have loyally supported all the war measures of the Government, have appealed to all classes of my fellow-citizens to rise to the occasion and do their share, not only in contributing money, but in the ranks by doing battle for the great cause. And I am here today for the same purpose and object, to appeal to my fellow-countrymen of all origins to do their duty, and ask all who can go to take their places amongst those who are contending for the cause of civilization on the fields of France and Flanders.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Brome.

## THE PATRIOTIC POTATO STEAL.

Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, in his speech at the Flemming "come back" demonstration at Woodstock last week, alluded to the patriotic potato transaction and declared that he was fully responsible for the same and was willing to accept all responsibility. In the published report of his speech we find the following:

"The Government had been informed that a gift of potatoes would be most acceptable, and 40,000 barrels were purchased for the Mother Land and 15,000 barrels for Belgium. . . . The potatoes were accordingly purchased by the Department of Agriculture at \$1 per barrel, and the 55,000 barrels landed across the Atlantic for \$2.18 per barrel, including freight rates, etc. Under a purely business transaction \$2,400 had been refunded by Hon. Mr. Smith, and it was to his credit that he had done so."

It was very kind of Hon. Mr. Murray to make mention of the patriotic potato episode and thus open the door to his opponents for the discussion of a subject which, when the facts are placed before them, should be the means of swinging many votes to the Opposition column in Carleton. Hon. Mr. Murray, in his statement, seems to have missed a few things, whether by accident or design, we cannot say. For instance, he forgot to quote the order-in-council authorizing the gift, and we take pleasure in supplying the omission. Here it is as taken from the Auditor General's report for the year 1914:

## Special Warrant.

To the Honorable the Provincial Secretary of the Province of New Brunswick:

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, having decided to make a contribution of one hundred thousand bushels of potatoes to the Government of Great Britain at an estimated cost of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000), for the use of the army and navy, as a token of the loyalty of the people of this province to the Motherland, and there being no legislative provision for the expenditure involved in such contribution, and the same being urgently required for the public good, and an order-in-council having been made by the committee of the Executive Council pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 25, sub-section (b), section 17, of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly, 8 Edward VII., you are hereby authorized to issue the said sum of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars, so required as aforesaid, which said amount shall be placed by you to a special account against which a cheque or cheques may issue as required, for the payment of the amount required to defray the expenses of the purchase and the transportation of the said contribution, and for no other purpose whatever.

Dated this second day of September, A. D. 1914.

(Sgd.) JOSIAH WOOD,  
Lieutenant Governor.

The above order-in-council, authorized the government to purchase one hundred thousand bushels of potatoes "as a token of the loyalty of the people of this province to the Motherland," at an estimated cost of \$75,000, the said sum to be used "to defray the expenses of the purchase and the transportation of the said contribution, and for no other purpose whatever." The language of the order was plain enough, and there is no reason why this Government, which boasts of its business-like qualities, should not have carried it out to the letter. No mention was made then of a gift of potatoes to the Belgians; that came as an afterthought when the Government, as the result of pressure from hungry party heelers and flagrant mismanagement, found itself in possession of more potatoes than it knew what to do with. The order-in-council authorized the purchase of 40,000 barrels of potatoes. Figures compiled from three separate

statements published in the Auditor General's report show that Mr. B. Franklin Smith, M. P. P. (now Hon. B. Franklin Smith, Minister of Public Works), supplied 43,731 barrels, for which he was paid the sum of \$47,760.95. This quantity was more than sufficient for the purpose, but the Minister of Agriculture kept right on buying potatoes. The hungry ones among the Government's following had to be provided for first, and it was not long before the \$75,000 appropriated for the purchase resembled the proverbial thirty cents. Some excuse had to be found for a second raid on the treasury and the case of the starving Belgians aroused the sympathy of the Government. The Lieutenant Governor was appealed to and came across with an order-in-council for a further sum of \$75,000, making a total of \$150,000. Potatoes were plentiful and cheap in 1914, when this transaction was pulled off, but the Auditor General's report shows that the sum appropriated for the purpose proved entirely inadequate. The first statement published in the report for 1914 shows an expenditure of \$90,630.62 for potatoes, including sorting, freight, barreling, etc. In the report of 1915, under the caption of "Belgian Relief," there is shown an expenditure of \$27,456.54, all for potatoes, while on the next page the transaction in "surplus potatoes" is shown and foots up an expenditure of \$35,418.59, making a grand total of \$153,494.75. The surplus potatoes, it might be explained, did not go to Europe, but were disposed of in various ways. Sixteen carloads were condemned by the inspector and fed to hogs or thrown into St. John harbor, while thirteen thousand barrels were supposed to have been shipped to Cuba and disposed of for the handsome sum of \$33,463.80. The government claims to have lost only \$1,954.70 on the Cuban transaction, which amount is more than offset by the refund of \$2,400 alleged to have been made by Hon. B. F. Smith and which item the Auditor General overlooked when compiling his report. By way of recapitulation, it might be said this business-like government, which started out to purchase and ship to the Motherland 100,000 bushels of potatoes at an estimated cost of \$75,000, actually purchased 169,670 bushels at a total cost of \$153,494.75. Providing the sum of \$33,463.89 was actually received for "left-overs," the net cost of the transaction to the province was \$120,030.86. Freight charges to the old country were paid on 49,360 bags and 10,310 barrels of potatoes, the total amount being \$15,205.05.

The Government seems to have shown the same incapacity and recklessness in the purchase of empty barrels and bags as it displayed in the purchase of the potatoes. The Auditor's report shows that 64,286 bags were purchased at a cost of from 10 to 14 cents each, and 28,792 barrels at a cost of 32½ cents each. In the shipment of potatoes to the old country 49,060 bags and 10,310 barrels were used, so the Government must have had left on its hands according to its own statement, 14,426 empty bags, worth \$1,500, and 18,482 empty barrels, worth \$6,000, bought and paid for by the province. Some of these barrels and bags were of course used in the shipment of the 13,712 barrels of potatoes to Cuba, but the Auditor's report fails to show any receipts from the sale of empties.

Hon. Mr. Murray says he is willing to accept full responsibility for the patriotic potato transaction. It is just as well that this is so, for were he otherwise inclined he would have difficulty in finding anybody to share it with him, excepting, perhaps, Hon. B. F. Smith. It is well to note that so far Premier Clarke and Attorney General Baxter have not shown any feverish desire to deprive their colleague of any glory which belongs to him from this patriotic enterprise. There are some people who make bold to defend it, but their number is few and most of their names can be found in the Auditor General's report. Other people of equal intelligence, who do not feed from the public trough, do not hesitate to denounce it as the blackest transaction ever put over on the people of this province. If the sturdy farmers of Carleton county will only study the details of this transaction for themselves and afterwards vote as their better judgment dictates, the Hon. B. Franklin Smith and his colleague will on Sept. 21st forfeit their deposits.

Because it stated that he had discharged a government employee for failure to purchase supplies at his store, Mr. Arthur Culligan, M. P. P., for Restigouche, recently brought suit against the Campbellton Graphic, and with the aid of Attorney General Baxter and a hand-picked jury, recovered a verdict for \$500. The Conservative Chatham World recently published a far more serious libel on Mr. Culligan, when it stated that he was to become a forerunner member of the moribund Provincial Government, but so far we have not heard of any action for damages being instituted against Commodore Stewart. It is wrong for a distinguished back-bencher like Mr. Culligan to make fun of one newspaper and flesh of another.

JURY DISAGREED IN  
MANITOBA CASE

Winnipeg, Sept. 5.—After hearing evidence and argument at the assizes for six weeks, the jury chosen to try the guilt or innocence of former Premier Sir Rodmond Roblin and two of his ministers, George R. Coldwell and Jas. H. Howden, reported at 4 o'clock this afternoon that they could not agree, and they were discharged.

The case was put over till the fall. A charge of destroying documents laid against Sir Rodmond Roblin was also laid over. The ex-ministers, who have not been in custody at any time, continue at liberty on bonds of \$50,000 each.

The jury stood nine for conviction and three for acquittal.

## PERSONAL.

Mrs. P. D. McKenzie leaves this evening for Edmundston to pay an extended visit to her daughter, Mrs. P. A. Edington.

Mr. John B. Kinghorn, of the Geo. A. Slater Shoe Co., Montreal, has arrived here to join Mrs. Kinghorn and child, who have been the guests of his mother, Mrs. Wm. Kinghorn, George street.

Mr. F. W. Sumner, of Moncton, is here attending a meeting of the Valley Railway board.

Mr. W. S. Fisher is at the Queen. Col. R. O'Leary, of Richibucto, is a guest at the Queen.

Prof. W. F. Ganong, of Northampton, Mass., is at the Queen.

Mr. A. H. Dickson, of Chatham, is a guest at the Queen.

Dr. D. Townsend, of River Glade, is in the city today.

Mr. Percy Reid, of Ottawa, is a guest at the Queen.

Mr. Andrew Myles, of St. John, is at the Barker House.

Gunner Edgar F. McIntyre, of Campbellton, is at the Barker House. He is with the 65th Battery at Woodstock.

Hon. B. F. Smith, of East Florenceville, is a guest at the Barker House.

Mr. H. T. Douglass, of Stanley, is a guest at the Barker House.

Mr. Fred L. Slade, of Ottawa, is in the city today.

Mrs. R. M. Fowler, of St. John, is a guest at the Queen.

Company C. M. Sergt. G. Eldon Merithew, of the 140th Battalion, is here on leave.

Capt. A. M. Fisher and Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. F. B. Carvell and Miss Bessie Carvell, of Woodstock, arrived by motor Sunday night, registering at the Queen. They returned to Woodstock on Tuesday.

Mrs. N. W. Brown, of Middle Southampton, and daughter, passed through the city today en route home from a trip to Albert county.

Capt. F. W. Barbour of the Canadian Army Dental Corps, spent the holiday at his home here, returning to Camp Aldershot last evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dickson have returned from a pleasant visit to Westmorland and Albert counties.

Mrs. R. P. Allen is spending a few days at Hopewell Cape, Albert county.

## SUCCESSFUL ITALIAN AIR RAID.

Dirigible Bombed Austrian Military Works.

Rome, Sept. 5.—On the night of September 3 an Italian dirigible, according to an announcement made here, successfully bombed the Austrian military works at Lussingpiccolo, in the crown land of Istria. The airship returned undamaged.

## ON THE SIDE.

We want that place in the sun from now on.

"Deutschland's Gold a Myth"—like lots of other people's.

The sausage now takes its place beside the prune as a target for jokers.

"Turks Stopped at Woe." In other words, that's where they came to grief.

Our old stand-by, the "sassage," is again "in our midst," and enjoying an advance in price.

Every time Germany looks over her shoulder she sees that a new war front has sneaked up behind her.

While weeding out the disappointing generals, the Kaiser shouldn't overlook the Crown Prince.

The sausage has been described as the supreme test of man's faith in his fellows.

A rolling stone may not gather moss, but a rolling collar button generally collects its full meed of profanity.

Denver servant girls want \$12 a week as salary, not wages. If they get it there are many wives who would like to change places with them.

The old-fashioned man who used to think twice before he spoke now has a son who lights a cigarette before he jumps at a conclusion.

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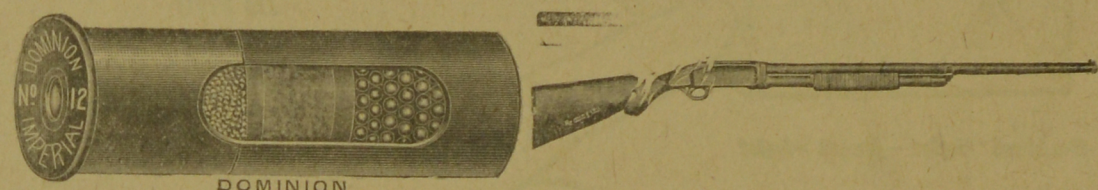
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