

THE DAILY MAIL.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1916.

"Instead of getting representative government since the election of the present legislature in 1912, the people of New Brunswick have suffered a period of misgovernment and incompetence and political corruption. One Prime Minister has been convicted by a royal commission and forced to retire; another royal commission has reported broadcast petty thieving and dishonesty among political officials and members of the legislature."—Ottawa Citizen, Ind. Con.

MR. PUGSLEY'S CHARGES.

The charges put forward by Mr. Pugsley and the demand made by him on the floor of Parliament for an enquiry into the extent and nature of the business done by the Canadian Shell Committee—which was superseded a couple of months ago by a British Commission appointed here—are not to be turned aside by the report that Mr. Pugsley talking politics. The question, as the Toronto Star points out, is too big to be disposed of by such an answer. Contracts were let to a value of \$265,000,000.

Discussing the matter further, the Star says: "Is it not quite clear to everybody that if there is to be an inquiry into the operations of the Canadian Shell Committee it is Canada's business to handle the matter, and that Hon. William Pugsley had gone the right way about it."

"If an attempt be made to evade the issue by saying that the affair is Britain's and not ours, the effort will be a weak one. Canada undertook to transact this business for Britain; eventually the Mother country found it necessary to send men over here and take the work out of Canada's hands. That is about as far as the British Government could go in that direction. Lloyd George, no matter what he thinks, can scarcely 'prosecute' or investigate the Shell Committee created by the Canadian Government. He could stop doing business with it and through it. And he did stop."

"According to the statement made to Parliament by Hon. W. T. White, Canada is to pay her share of these munition bills ultimately. There will be an adjustment. It was our own money in part, that was being spent, but even were this not so, it was the agents of our government that had all these disbursements in hand, and it is to our parliament that all concerned are answerable."

POLITICAL PULL.

Discussing the question of political influence and its relation to military appointments, a writer in Church Work says:

"One is continually hearing these days of politics in connection with military appointments. I have been told repeatedly that worthy, capable young men, personally qualified in every respect, have been refused commissions on political grounds. As the saying is, 'they have no pull.' I don't know how true this is, and whether there is any truth at all in it. For the credit of our beloved country,

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I most sincerely hope that there isn't a shred of truth in these charges. For in a connection like this, political favoritism, always hateful and contemptible in any connection, is nothing less than criminal, and shows a moral obliquity in those responsible for such a state of things which is depressing and disheartening in the extreme. Some time ago a very pronounced Liberal friend, in speaking rather severely of Sir Sam Hughes' foibles and eccentricities, remarked: 'One thing no one can say of him is that he allows politics to bias him in his appointments.' But there are others, according to common report. I am also told that there has been a good deal of jobbery—to call it by no worse name—in many of the civil appointments connected with the army; that excessive salaries are being paid to doctors, censors, stay-at-home chaplains and others, and as is generally the case, paid to those who least need them."

Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., contributed a fighting speech to the debate on the address in Parliament yesterday. He handled the Government's Shell Commission without gloves, and showed that there had been rank favoritism in the awarding of contracts. In the face of the serious charges made by Hon. Dr. Pugsley and backed up by Mr. Carvell, the Government will find it difficult to dodge an inquiry into the shell game. As Mr. Carvell pointed out yesterday, there can be no political truce so far as grafting and boodling is concerned.

Chatham World: Hurrah for Northumberland! She is the banner county of New Brunswick. Her council has placed her far in the lead. The elected representatives of the people, in council assembled, have voted \$30,000 to the Patriotic Fund. We can now sing loyal and patriotic songs without a blush. All of us who are not fighting are paying.

Having got along without the services of a forecaster or travelling fees members of the Government for nearly a year, the semi-official announcement is now made that Premier Clarke is considering the advisability of naming two. The matter will likely be settled at the caucus being held at Moncton today.

Who paid the bills of Geo. W. Fowler and M. G. Teed, which were withdrawn after being rendered 'the province? Isn't it nearly time to know?

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JAPANESE
DEMANDS
ON CHINA

(Canadian Press.)

London, Jan. 26.—The Japanese government has delivered to the Chinese minister in Tokio for transmission to his government, a note embodying seven demands which were included in the Japanese program of last spring. The Manchester Guardian learns from Far Eastern sources. The Guardian expresses the hope that this news will be "authoritatively contradicted," as the demands, when previously presented, were full of danger to China independence and their general effect would have to be to place China under the tutelage of Japan.

"It is the aim and hope of British policy," the newspaper continues, "to see China strong and independent, developing peace fully without interference from any foreign power." "It is a duty we owe both to ourselves and to China," says The Guardian finally, "to help her in that direction and we have enormous material interests, too, which reinforce what is for us, the only right and just policy."

ARTILLERY DUELS
NEAR NIEUPONT

Paris, Jan. 25.—The text of today's official communication follows:

"In Belgium last night the German and French artillery branches continued to demonstrate their activity in the region of Nieupont. Further details confirm previous reports that the attack of the enemy, delivered yesterday near the mouth of the Yser River, was checked by the fire of our guns. The Germans were unable to come out, except at a single point, where several groups were successful in penetrating into our first line of trenches. They were, however, immediately driven out, after a very spirited fight, in which hand grenades were used. These caused the Germans perceptible losses."

"In the Artois section, the movement on the part of the enemy yesterday against our positions to the east of Neuville-St. Vaast, which resulted in complete failure, were resumed at the end of the day in greater strength. After a further series of explosions of mines, accompanied by a very violent bombardment, the Germans delivered an attack along a front of 1,500 yards, in the angle made by the roadway from Arras to Lens with the road from Neuville-St. Vaast to Thelus. They were driven back to their lines by our fire. At two points where our trenches had been shattered by mine explosions they were successful in occupying certain craters but from most of these they were almost immediately expelled."

"In the Vosges we have carried out an effective bombardment of the positions of the enemy at Ban-Be-Sapt."

London, Jan. 25.—The British official statement on the western campaign, issued tonight, reads as follows:

"We had a successful artillery bombardment today near Boissella, La Bridoux and Boesinghe. Near Boesinghe we exploded a bomb in the enemy's lines."

"The hostile artillery has shown activity near Gommeourt, about Loos and at Hooge."

"The aircraft on both sides has been active."

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RAILWAY TRAFFIC
IS STILL TIED UP.

Revelstoke, B.C., Jan. 26.—Traffic east from this point has been resumed after slides at Rogers' Pass and a blizzard at Field had tied up the trains for two days. No trains are expected from Vancouver before the end of the week. Revelstoke's supply of coal is practically exhausted.

It's hard to be grateful to men who fight your battles for you and get licked.

If fortune's wheel doesn't turn to suit you, put your shoulder to it and give it another whirl.



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