

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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1916.

"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."—Abraham Lincoln.

THE SHELL GAME.

The charges of boodling and favoritism in connection with shell contracts, made in the House of Commons by Hon. Dr. Pugsley and Mr. F. B. Carvell, have stirred Canada from ocean to ocean. The subsidized press, scenting danger, has launched a violent campaign of vilification and abuse against the sturdy New Brunswick members who brought the matter before Parliament, hoping no doubt by this means to shelve the main issue. Charges of disloyalty and violation of the political truce are being hurled against Hon. Dr. Pugsley, while in the case of Mr. Carvell we are told that fifteen years ago, when he was a private citizen, he sold hay to the British government for use in the South African war. It is also stated that Mr. Carvell did not present to Parliament the correct version of a private conversation which he had with Hon. Martin Burrill, Minister of Agriculture, and for this alleged offence Conservative newspapers are telling their readers under scare headlines that the member for Carleton is not fit to be in public life. The people are not greatly concerned over what Mr. Carvell may or may not have done fifteen years ago, nor is Mr. Burrill's opinion of his veracity a matter of paramount importance just now. The taxpayers of Canada would like very much to know, however, if the grave charges of graft and favoritism in connection with shell contracts, made in Parliament by Messrs. Pugsley and Carvell, are well founded. We have the statement of the Minister of Finance that when the final accounting is made, Canada must pay her full share of the cost of war munitions, including shrapnel and all kinds of war equipment. This being so, it is of vital interest to Canadians that munitions should be procured at the lowest prices and there should be no commissions or rake-offs to middlemen.

Mr. Carvell in his speech made the specific charge that the York and Cornwall cotton mill, a St. John concern, had secured a contract for 25,000 shrapnel shells and, having no plant with which to do the work, had turned it over to the Phoenix Foundry on a commission basis. It is a very well known fact that Senator Thorne, the Conservative boss in St. John, is a director of the cotton company, and he is also a very close friend of Hon. Mr. Hazen. Couple the one with the other and it is not a difficult matter to understand how the cotton company, with no facilities for turning out shells, was able to land a fat contract. The transaction and the lame attempts at an explanation of it in Parliament, do not reveal the Minister of Marine in a very favorable light, nor does it reflect any great amount of credit on the business capacity of the members of the Shell Committee. If it was in the public interest to award a shell contract to the York and Cornwall cotton mill, why were not similar contracts given to the cotton mills of Marysville and Milltown? Why should favoritism have been shown, unless it was because the two last named mills did not happen to be so fortunate as to have a Conservative Senator and close friend of the Minister of Marine on the board of directors.

It is well known that the shell game was carried to such extremes in Canada that Mr. Lloyd George, the British Minister of Munitions, was compelled to sit up and take notice. He sent Mr. D. A. Thomas, the Welsh coal magnate, to this country to try and find out what was wrong. Mr. Thomas travelled up and down the country, looked over different plants, and as a result of his visit the old Shell Committee was dismissed and a new one appointed to work under the direction of the British Minister of Munitions. Before leaving for home Mr. Thomas gave out the following interview to the Montreal Gazette:

"I MAY TELL YOU THAT THE COST OF SHELLS IN CANADA HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN IN COMPETITIVE COUNTRIES. It

is complained that fat orders have gone to the United States, but I can assure you that a big slice will be reserved for Canada as long as the price is fairly satisfactory. THE PRICES SO FAR HAVE BEEN FAR HIGHER THAN IN THE UNITED STATES OR IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHERE ANY EXTRA PROFITS HAVE BEEN COMMANDEERED BY THE GOVERNMENT."

The above is not the statement of a Liberal partizan, but of Mr. D. A. Thomas, who came to Canada as the special ambassador of Lloyd George. He tells us that the prices for shells have been higher in Canada than in the United States. This is certainly a pretty strong indictment against a Government the members of which have always made a great parade and show of their loyalty to the Motherland. Mr. Thomas says shells have cost more in Canada than in the United States, but he does not tell the public why this is so. It was left for Messrs. Pugsley and Carvell, from their places in Parliament, to supply the omission, and they made a thorough job of it. The Government should not only hold an investigation into the shell game, but it should get after the profiteers and compel them to hand over about 75 per cent. of their ill-gotten gains to the patriotic fund or some other worthy object.

Donald Munro, M. P. P. for Carleton, is likely to be appointed Registrar of Deeds, the vacancy of which office was caused by the death of Mr. John Leighton, sr., of Woodstock. Mr. Munro has been a strong party man, but he also enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens in a municipal capacity and has failed to avail himself of those opportunities which seem to have tempted many of his colleagues in the Legislature. He needs such a position to ensure him comfort and some leisure in the future, and the Mail hopes he may live many years in the office he has earned.

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN
IN NEW BRUNSWICK

(St. John Telegraph.)

The resignation of Mr. James R. Fallis, a member of the Ontario Legislature, representing Peel county, is reported by The Toronto World, and is said to be due to some notoriety which Mr. Fallis received in connection with horse purchases investigated by the Davidson commission.

Occasionally somebody drops out of the New Brunswick legislature under some such circumstances, but usually no sensitive member of the New Brunswick chamber vacates his seat until the federal government has arranged to reward him with some office of emolument.

Mr. A. J. H. Stewart of Gloucester has not yet resigned, so it must be assumed that the dominion government has not quite figured out what position it will give him. A Kent county member who resigned a while ago, after the Chandler commission got to work, was given the office of Indian commissioner. Mr. Flemming was able to get a certificate of character from the New Brunswick legislature, and perhaps Mr. Stewart is waiting for a similar one. Or it may be that in these days the number of applicants for federal positions of an honorable and lucrative character is so large as to cause the distribution committee some doubt as to just how Mr. Stewart is to be provided for.

The conduct of the Ontario legislator in precipitately offering his resignation because of anything the Davidson commission purported to discover will be shocking to the government members of the New Brunswick legislature; they are accustomed to defy public opinion and wait until such time as the local government and the dominion government have agreed on the form of reward for gentlemen who have encountered misfortune in the provincial arena and who desire and sustain them after their disappearance from the scene of their former triumphs at Fredericton.

If every member of the New Brunswick legislature whose conduct in respect to public business had elicited hostile comment were to follow the example of Mr. Fallis, the result would be a stampede for cover.

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THE SULTAN'S HEIR
COMMITTED SUICIDE

London, Feb. 3.—The report that the heir to the Turkish throne, Yussuf Izzedin, committed suicide, is received with general incredulity by the British press, although the report has been accompanied by circumstantial details. Thus a despatch to Reuters from Constantinople via Amsterdam, says:

"The Prince took his life by opening a vein in his left arm, at 7.15 o'clock in the morning. The official statement, declaring that the deceased had met his death by suicide, was signed by all the principal doctors of Constantinople."

It says that the Prince was buried with the customary ceremonies on the following morning, in the tomb of Sultan Ahmed at Stamboul.

Wanderers Won
From Canadiens

(Canadian Press.)

Montreal, Feb. 3.—In the N.H.A. last evening Wanderers defeated Canadiens 9 to 5 and Ottawa tallied 4 to Quebec's 0.

Ontario Legislature
To Meet Feb. 29th

Toronto, Feb. 4.—The Mail and Empire says: The members of the Ontario Legislature will, it is expected, be called together for the business of the session on the last Tuesday of the month.

QUEBEC BRIDGE TO BE
FINISHED THIS YEAR

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—The Quebec bridge will be practically finished this year, and in operation next year, according to the report to the Department of Railways from the engineer in charge.

BILINGUAL SCHOOLS
AT OTTAWA CLOSED

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—Seventeen Ottawa bilingual schools were closed at one o'clock this afternoon, leaving 4,000 children in the streets, when 122 French teachers went on strike because they have not been paid their salaries since September, 1914.

STOCK MARKET

New York.

Air Brake	147½
American Car Foundry	63½
American Smelting	101½
C. P. R.	172
Atchafalaya	104
Crucible Steel	78½
California Petroleum	32½
Erie	39
Lehigh Valley	77½
Northern Pacific	114½
Studebaker	152½
Union Pacific	133½
United States Steel	83½
Westinghouse	66½

Montreal.

Ames	22½
Canada Car	65
Cement	46½
Dominion Iron	45½
Laurentide	185
Montreal Power	224
Scotia	97
Anglo French bonds	95
Canada War bonds	97½

Mr. Geoffrey Stead, government engineer at Chatham, is at the Queen. Mr. George O. Straton of Moncton, is a guest at the Queen.

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Fresh Salmon, per lb. 15c.
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