

THE DAILY MAIL

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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 ARNILL STATEMENT.

We have just read through what the Standard and The Gleaner say in answer to the statements made in the solemn declaration of Robert J. Arnill concerning the payment of \$2,500 to James H. Crockett. That declaration contained very serious matter. It would call for immediate action by the Government, if we had a Government in this province which dare act. After reading the defence, one naturally asks, What is the use of all this denial of things which Mr. Arnill never said, while they neglect to deal with the serious things which he did say?

The substance of Mr. Arnill's statement may be put in a very few words, namely, that a large sum of money was owing to his firm; that they had tried for months to get it from the Railway Company and from the Government, and had not succeeded; that finally they stated that they would contribute \$2,500 if they got their money; that shortly after that they did get their money, and they paid James H. Crockett, the dispenser of Government patronage, the sum of \$2,500, as promised. The answer which has been put up may also be put in a few words, namely: The settlement of this Smith & Merrithew account was a private transaction with which the Government had nothing to do; that Crockett got the money, but it was given to him as the price of his strong friendship for the manager of the Hibbard Co.

That is a defence which will satisfy those who are looking for an excuse to be satisfied with, but will satisfy no one else.

In the first place the settlement of these railway claims was a matter in which the Government had a most direct interest. By legislation and by the promises of the ministers, the Government had undertaken to see that all legitimate claims against the road were paid. In May, 1915, a notice was published by the Government in the Royal Gazette, notifying all persons who had claims in connection with the road to file them, and then a commissioner was appointed by the Government, first Mr. Dunlop and then Mr. Blanchette, to adjust these and arrange a settlement.

The province had supplied all the money that went into the railway, and by Chapter 9 of the Acts of Assembly of 1915, the Government had taken power to itself to forfeit the road to the province if satisfactory arrangements were not made by the Gould Co. for the completion of the road.

Section 4 of that Act provides:

"In the event of the Company failing within such time as the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may determine, to make arrangements satisfactory to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council for the completion of the railway . . . the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may, by order published in the Royal Gazette, vest all the shares of the capital stock of the said company issued prior to the date of the publication of said order, in His Majesty on behalf of the province."

All the Government had to do under this section was to pass the necessary order-in-council, and take the road over as the property of the province. This was done by order-in-council of Aug. 4th, 1915, published in the Royal Gazette of Aug. 18th, 1915. This order-in-council, after setting out that the St. John & Quebec Railway Co. had been given twenty days to make satisfactory arrangements to complete the railway, provided as follows:

"The Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, in consequence of such arrangements not having been made, and in pursuance of the provisions of said section four of said Chapter 9 of said Act 5, George V., now recommends that all the shares of the capital stock of the

said Company issued prior to the date of the publication of this Order, vest in His Majesty on behalf of the Province, free from all liens, pledges, charges or other encumbrances, except the lien in favor of the Prudential Trust Co., Ltd., as presently existing in respect to 19,749 shares, with power to transfer said shares, or any of them, to such persons as may from time to time be designated by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, to be held by them in trust for the Province, with all such further and other powers in respect to such shares as are given by said Act."

The Lieutenant Governor-in-Council adopted this recommendation. By this order, therefore, the province took all the shares of the Railway Co., and made the company in fact a department of the Government, and became responsible for the settlement of all the claims.

The Government also appointed five directors to manage the affairs of the company, namely, Irving R. Todd, Edward Girouard, John D. Palmer, W. S. Fisher and Richard O'Leary, and the Government gazetted Mr. Todd as the President, Mr. Girouard as secretary, and Mr. Palmer as Treasurer, and the claims which were settled were approved of by these men and the cheques in settlement were issued by them and the money used was provided by the Province of New Brunswick.

The dates on which the money for this purpose was handed over by the Government to the Commission, and the amounts, was given in an answer in the Legislature during the last session. On page 38 of the Appendix to the Synoptic Report, Hon. Dr. Landry, in reply to a question by Mr. Dugal, says:

The following amounts have been placed to the credit of the Company on the dates specified:

Oct. 5th, 1915	\$20,000.00
Oct. 19th	20,000.00
Oct. 30th	40,000.00
Nov. 11th	20,000.00
Dec. 10th	20,000.00
Dec. 30th	65,000.00
Jan. 21st, 1916	90,000.00
Jan. 29th	30,000.00

In view of these facts, who will say that the Government had nothing to do with the payment of the Smith & Merrithew claim? Indeed, the defence admits that the cheque received by Smith & Merrithew was not from the Hibbard Co., but was a cheque signed by Messrs. Todd and Palmer, the representatives of the Government.

Over and above all this we have the testimony of E. Lorne Merrithew in his defence, which must not be overlooked. He says that "on any occasion when any request was made to any member of the Government for payment, we were distinctly told that it was entirely a matter between us and the Hibbard Company, and one over which they had no control."

From this it is evident that the firm of Smith & Merrithew believed that the government had something to do with getting them their money, and that they persisted in asking the Government for it on various occasions. That they went back time and again, although refused. The Government said it was not interested. There was no other way to get the money except from the funds supplied by the Government. So the firm was willing to promise a payment of \$2,500 to get the Government interested.

That promise did the trick. The Government assumed the control which they had previously declined to assume. The firm got its money—not from the Hibbard Co., but from the commissioners appointed by the Government, as the defendants admit; and Mr. James H. Crockett, the dispenser of Government patronage, got \$2,500 out of the amount.

Thus the defendants admit the whole case.

But Mr. Crockett says that the payment was merely a contribution to him out of personal friendship. It has been known by many for some time, including nearly all the Government politicians, that Mr. Crockett's friendship comes high and is an expensive luxury; in fact it has been known that the intensity of his friendship is measured by the size of the draft which the friend may be prevailed upon to accept; but the public will be slow to believe that these hard-headed railway contractors valued that friendship of Mr. Crockett for the manager of the Hibbard Co. alone on this occasion at the sum of \$2,500.

HOLDING UP CONTRACTORS.

Commenting on a hold-up of contractors by the late Roblin government, the Toronto Globe, in a recent issue, publishes the following:

"This amazing story of the relations between contractors and Ministers of the Crown in Manitoba is but another illustration of how money is obtained by public men for political purposes. The amount so secured must, in the aggregate, be enormous. The capitalists who are granted railway subsidies, the manufacturers who desire to make sure of their protection, the holders of liquor licenses in the various provinces, lumbermen who operate on Crown lands, all contribute to party funds—some of them to the funds of both parties. The money so obtained

is not all spent corruptly, for the legitimate organization expenses of Canadian parties are very great because of the huge expanse of territory to be covered and the relative sparseness of the population. Much of the 'fat,' however, fried from the recipients of government favors is spent corruptly. Petty political bosses, trusted with the actual work of bribery, intercept no small part of it. Of the vast amounts abstracted from the public treasury, perhaps a relatively small sum finds its way into the pockets of electors susceptible of bribery.

"The demoralization resulting from this corrupt use of money will continue until Canada forms the habit of putting in jail the respectable giver of bribes as well as the disreputable bribe taker. The law governing subscriptions to political parties or for use in independent political action should be made so stringent and should be enforced so effectively that a public record would be available of every subscription above \$50."

Recent developments have shown that Manitoba is not the only province in Canada where contractors are held up and compelled to pay toll by political buccaneers. The Globe's words apply with equal force to New Brunswick.

Mr. J. B. Daggett made it known a short time ago that he had been invited to take part in the Carleton campaign, but had declined. Now we find him up in Carleton county stumping for Smith and Sutton. The taxpayers of the province are paying the salary of this man, and he has no right to be travelling about the country talking politics. The government's cause in Carleton must be in a desperate state.

Mr. R. J. Arnill's affidavit drove most of the war news from the front page of the Standard on Saturday.

ON THE SIDE.

The hot weather joker is now looking for a place to warm himself.

About the best way to get even is to pay what you owe.

Oh, lucky Jim! The rest of us are still waiting for a present of \$2,500.

A girl likes a young man's love to have a "ring" of sincerity.

We're afraid some of the moose and deer were not given a square chance to read the calendar.

A man is always actuated by a stern sense of duty when he handles the rudder of a boat.

If you see one young man laughing at the old jokes of another, the other has a pretty sister.

Many a man has been arrested for forgery, simply because he tried to make a name for himself.

Don't pay a widow compliments unless you are matrimonially inclined and willing to pay her bills.

The poet soars upward after the infinite, but the practical chap remains on earth and satisfies his longings with pork and beans.

Another tradition busted. We have often been told that corporations have no souls, and now we're told that a firm of contractors have given away \$2,500 right here in Fredericton, out of pure gratitude.

INTEREST AT WASHINGTON OVER LATEST ORDER

Washington, Sept. 16.—The State Department sought to learn through diplomatic channels precisely what commodities are included in Great Britain's latest blockade order restricting shipments from the United States to Holland and the Scandinavian countries.

If the action is found to shut off any great quantity of American trade with these neutral countries, it doubtless will be regarded seriously by this government.

Interest in the effect of the order is enhanced at this time because President Wilson was granted authority by recent legislation to retaliate against countries interfering unduly with American commerce.

The State Department also is interested in ascertaining whether the reported arrangement between Great Britain and France for exchange of commodities whose importation from other countries is forbidden, does not violate the British-American commercial treaty of 1815.



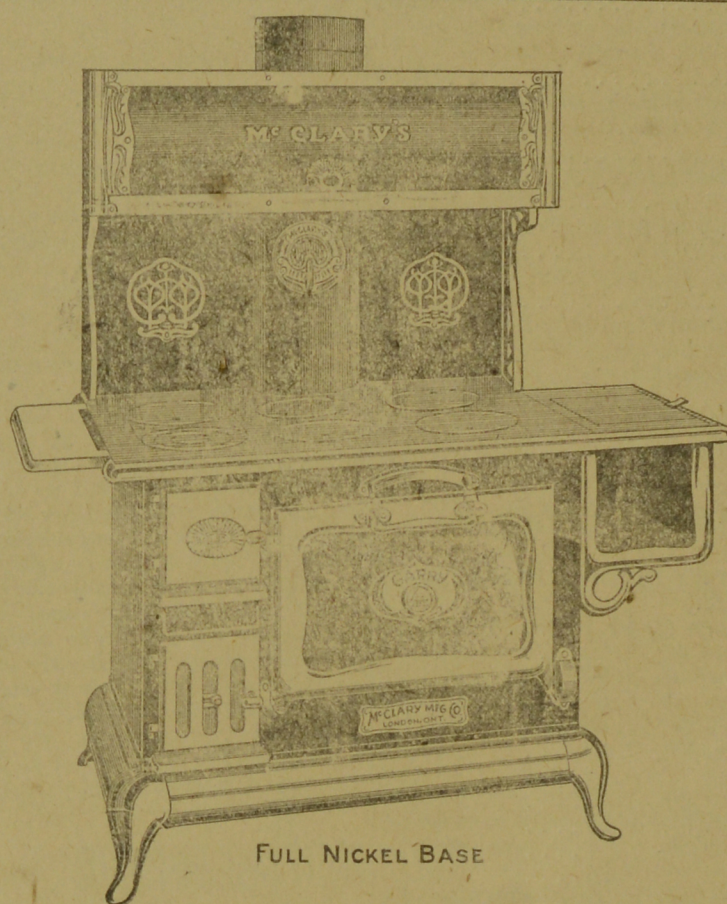
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