

## THE DAILY MAIL

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What I said November 9, I repeat now: "We shall never sheathe the sword, until Belgium—and I will add Serbia—recover in full measure all and more than they have sacrificed; until France is adequately secured against aggression; until the rights of the small nations of Europe are based upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."—Premier Asquith.

## 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 potatoes 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 292 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 \$27,456.54, 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 sets 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. The 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 of 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 shipper 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 competition 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 AS-

SIST 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 exposures 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?

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."

Some of the men who used to howl in the old days over the salaries and allowances of provincial cabinet ministers, now maintain a discreet silence on that subject. With these gentlemen it is no longer a matter worthy of any consideration and they have no criticism to offer against the payment of over \$11,000 to the Premier of the province last year in salary and fees.

When it comes to gathering in succession duties, Premier Clarke is not a procrastinator in any sense of the term. Why, in one and one-half months last year he gathered in twelve times as much from succession duties as Hon. Mr. Baxter was able to do in ten and one-half months. It is only fair to Hon. Mr. Baxter, however, to state that he did not have a fair start in the race.

The Provincial Government paid out the sum of \$3,060.12 to lawyer friends last year for the prosecution of criminal cases. The chief beneficiary was Mr. Daniel Mullin, K. C., who is an applicant for a seat on the Supreme Court bench. Mr. Mullin was paid \$1,293.97 for his services, which is \$93.97 in excess of the salary which was formerly paid to the Solicitor General.

The St. John Globe wants the Government to pass an act declaring vacant the seat of Mr. A. J. H. Stewart, member for Gloucester. A simpler method of getting rid of Stewart is to have him expelled from the Legislature. The only drawback against the execution of this plan is that it is difficult to find a member duly qualified to cast the first stone.

The farmers of New Brunswick ought to go in heavily on potatoes this year. If they should experience any difficulty in finding a profitable market for them they can turn them over to the officials of the Agricultural Department who pulled the province out of a hole in connection with the patriotic potato stunt.

It was J. L. White, of Victoria, and Geo. B. Jones, of Kings, who moved and seconded the Flemming white-wash resolution during the closing hours of the last session of the House. It is almost time they were bestowing a similar favor on Stewart of Gloucester.

## ON THE SIDE.

Funny how people begin to talk of spring at this time of year.

Well, what did you expect in March anyway?

Yes, Mr. Simp, it's the cold weather that delays the approach of spring.

For \$670,000 Charlie Chaplin can afford to be as funny as he can.

One thing that France does not propose to give up in Lent is Verdun.

You hear them kick about old stuff, but they never fail to stop and look at a fallen horse on a slippery street.

This is pruning time, they say—but there don't seem to be any lapse of time between stewed prunes and pruning the shrubbery.

Ladies who wish to be strictly in style with have their spring costumes made of dry goods trimmed with trimmings.

Just think of paying five dollars a volume for "The of Somebody," when most any man will give you his history for nothing.

Why not be an optimist? Owing to the general use of rugs, the twentieth century papa hardly ever steps on a carpet tack as he walks with the baby in the dead of night.

MEMBER OF 69TH  
IS MURDER VICTIM.

Montreal, March 19.—Corporal Pascal Rousseau of the 69th Battalion, Montreal, was murdered at 2.30 Saturday afternoon by a stranger, said to be a Pole, while the soldier was standing in front of Napoleon Joly's home, 29 Ste. Agathe Lane, in company with Napoleon Joly and another friend, Edouard Marsereau, Rousseau being stabbed in the neck with a pocket knife.

"I am not badly hurt," he said faintly, as he staggered into the house of a friend, Miss Eva Powell, No. 25 Ste. Agathe Lane, "it's only a slight wound."

Then he dropped on the floor unconscious and while being removed in an ambulance to the hospital, two blocks distant, he bled to death, the jugular vein having been severed.

The stabbing was the outcome of a brief encounter between Corporal Rousseau and the Pole, the former preventing the Pole from entering the residence at 29 Ste. Agathe Lane, pushing him and slapping his face. The Pole immediately afterwards disappeared. The knife was picked up on the sidewalk a few minutes later. An inquest will be held Monday morning.

THE HUNT FOR VILLA  
STILL UNSUCCESSFUL

(Canadian Press.)

Washington, March 20.—Information that the American expeditionary forces in Mexico have established contact with Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws, was anxiously awaited today by the war department.

Latest unofficial advices received here said that Villa and his bandits, fleeing before the American advance, had reached his own country in the Gurrerio district, where army officers say he may elude his pursuers indefinitely. They believe, however, that if Villa makes a stand, the campaign will be brought to a quick conclusion, but if he abandons his men, officers say, he could find a retreat in the nearby mountains or in the barb of a poen go so far south as to make his apprehension impossible.

Elaborate scouting plans, it is stated, have been made by General Pershing to meet such a situation. As a last resort, trusted Mexican scouts, who know the retreats of the bandits, would be employed to run Villa down. Instructions have gone forward to the forces in Mexico not to occupy Mexican towns so as to prevent the possibility of stirring up resentment among the natives.

Washington, March 20.—General Carranza has formally protested against American troops occupying Casas Grandes in their pursuit of Villa and the American government has replied that the troops have been ordered specifically not to occupy Casas Grandes nor any other towns or cities in Mexico.

GOVERNMENT TO  
HELP MARRIED CONSCRIPTS

London, March 19.—Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, secretary of state for war, issued an army order today announcing that the King had authorized the formation of a corps entitled the Royal Defence Corps, with pay the same as that of regular infantry. The order does not explain its objects, but it is believed to be connected with the efforts to solve the problem of recruiting married men.

The Central News says it understands that the War Office has decided to call upon all the remaining groups of attested men without delay, and that it is probable they will be notified for service with the colors before the end of March, or early in April.

The government is reported virtually to have solved the question of providing for the liabilities of enrolled men, such as rent and insurance.

MEXICAN BANDITS  
RESPECT UNION JACK

El Paso, Texas, March 20.—Mrs. Wallace Rogers, of Detroit, Mich., arrived here yesterday with her fifteen months' old infant, and told how she had hidden with her baby for two days in the shaft of an abandoned mine near Cananta, from Mexican bandits.

Mrs. Rogers declared that the Mexican bandits not only had no respect for the American flag, but that it actually incited them to outrages. The only flag that offered any protection at all, she said, was the British flag.

"I am bitterly ashamed to admit it," she said, "but whenever trouble started we began to hunt for a Union Jack. It was by no means a bullet proof shield, but it was the only flag I ever saw that the Mexicans paid any deference to."

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(Canadian Press.)

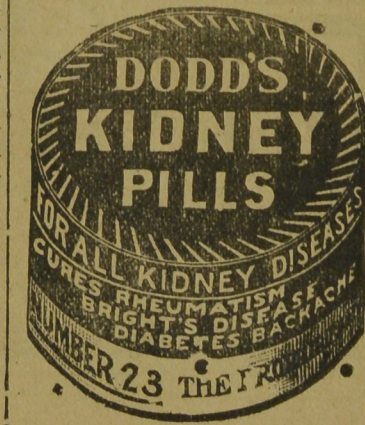
London, March 20.—Sir Sam Hughes, Canadian minister of militia, arrived at Falmouth yesterday, where he received the freedom of the city.

WELL KNOWN AUTHOR  
DIED ON SATURDAY

(Canadian Press.)

London, March 20.—The Rev. Stopford Augustus Brooke died at Ewhurst, Surrey, Saturday. He was born in 1832 and was well known as an aviator.

Mr. J. H. Fleming is quite ill at his home on Charlotte street from an attack of pleurisy.

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