

THE DAILY MAIL

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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1916

What I said November 9, I repeat now: "We shall never sheathe the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, 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.

HON. MR. MURRAY AND POTATOES

Hon. Mr. Murray, Acting Premier, amid great bluster yesterday in the House, attempted to browbeat the Opposition organizer, who is the sessional correspondent of the Daily Telegraph. He had yesterday morning been confronted with his record as a minister with respect to the most important transaction—the patriotic potatoes—with which his department has had to deal.

When in September, 1914, a little more than a month after war broke out, the love and affection of the colonies of England were finding expression everywhere throughout the Dominion, the Governor and the Government of New Brunswick debated what would be the proper way to express the "loyalty of the people of this province."

The people of Prince Edward Island sent 100,000 bushels of oats. Nobody was paid for them. The people gave them. That was real loyalty. Nova Scotia imposed a war tax on real estate. The people paid and the money was sent. That was their first tribute of affection for the Motherland.

New Brunswick resolved to send potatoes. But what did the Government do? Did they ask the people to contribute them, as the Island people had their oats? No. Did they ask the people to pay a little greater tax to pay for 100,000 bushels of potatoes? No. They asked the Governor first for a warrant of \$75,000 to buy the gift. And, according to his own statement, the Minister of Agriculture, instead of giving his whole time and attention to this act of devotion, this expression of loyalty on the part of the people, turned it over to his secretary, Mr. Daggett.

Mr. Daggett turned to his bosom friend, B. Frank Smith, of Carleton county, and gave him carte blanche to go ahead and buy potatoes. And Smith did so. The money was almost next door to him in the bank of his own home town, Florenceville. He shipped his own potatoes, about 5,000 barrels, and he bought and bought and bought, until he had sent in over 40,000 barrels. As the cars were filled he drew his money. He had authority from the Department of Agriculture to do so, although the Minister told the Legislature and country last session that no one had authority.

The result was that instead of one hundred thousand bushels there were nearly two hundred thousand bushels. There were other farmers and dealers who wanted a chance. Even some members of the Legislature wanted a look-in, and one of them, George B. Jones, M. P. P., got a good peek. But while over \$47,000 was paid to B. Frank Smith, only \$27,000 was paid to about a score of other farmers.

That was not all Mr. Daggett did for his bosom friend, B. Frank Smith. He gave him and Colby Smith, under the name of A. C. Smith & Co., the work of sorting and handling, and for these three Smiths were paid over \$22,000. Think of it—over \$22,000 to sort and handle \$74,000 worth of potatoes! The patriotism of the people as expressed in potatoes was such a paying proposition that the Smiths could not let it go. The resources of the province and Daggett's authority to the bank were behind them. So there was another warrant of \$75,000 to pay the bills.

There were, however, too many potatoes. They could not even unload them promptly. The C. P. R. charged \$1,200 demurrage, half of which the Government begged back again. The inspectors condemned many cars. The tubers began to rot. There was danger of frost. The people began to wonder in West St. John where all the cheap potatoes were coming from. Over fourteen thousand barrels were sent to Belgium, but there were nearly as many left. Warehouse and insurance charges, light, heat, watchman, sorters, all cost money.

And so arose the shipment to Cuba, of which Mr. Murray said yesterday, "No potatoes whatever were shipped by the Government to Cuba or anywhere else."

The complete answer to that is to be found elsewhere. The Opposition organizer, who is the Telegraph's cor-

respondent, did not speak without knowledge. There are facts to be told and the sooner the people have all of them the better.

The whole transaction reflects discredit upon the Minister and his department.

WILL COL. GUTHRIE PROTEST?

Upon one occasion after a general election and a sweep at the polls, the late Andrew G. Blair said there was often great danger to a Government from too many supporters.

The present Government affords an example of the truth of Mr. Blair's statement. The signs of revolt are not absent and some of them are encouraging signs. Rumor has been busy ever since the House opened that there would be some straight, outspoken criticism of the Government's course and conduct. Whether the closing words of Col. P. A. Guthrie's speech upon the address inspired this thought or hope, or whether better things are expected from a young man who has just returned from the testing ground of men and nations, is not really important. Many men throughout the province have been waiting for some indignant protest against the folly, extravagance and misgovernment of our rulers. We hope that Col. Guthrie can rise to the occasion and speak for the people who are looking and hoping for better things.

The Mail is not unmindful of where Col. Guthrie stood before he went to fight and bleed for his king and country. But the blood a man sheds for such a cause must obliterate mistakes—if the judgment of his former opponents establish them as mistakes—and the vision of better and nobler actions in the future surely present themselves to a young man at such a time, either on the field of battle, or upon a hospital cot.

All Canada will benefit by the regeneration of her young men. New Brunswick today needs the words and warnings of courageous men, and because one of those who have passed through the ordeal is a member of her parliament, it seems only natural to look to Col. P. A. Guthrie.

Will he respond?

What is the strange and strong bond of union between James K. Pinder and James Murray, and George B. Jones, and James K. Flemming, and H. W. Woods? Is the bond one of friendship, politics or finance? Knowing what we do of the men, the financial tie is the only one that would be binding. How large a bond or not, for example, would it take to tie this bunch together? What common interest have they except their own profit? Will the story of the Southampton Railway ever be told in full? The people of New Brunswick would like to write "Finis" after the end of the gruesome story and its principal characters.

Sir Robert Borden stated in Parliament on Tuesday that Hon. Andrew Broder had written him a letter denying that he had given out an interview which had recently appeared in the press. Hon. Mr. Broder, in the course of a speech on Sir Wilfrid's resolution, did not deny making the statements attributed to him, but declared that he had not intended them for publication. The fact that Hon. Mr. Broder voted for Sir Wilfrid's motion in Parliament showed that the reporter who interviewed him did not misrepresent his utterances.

The St. John Standard refers to Mr. Pugsley, Mr. F. B. Carvell and other militant Liberals as members of the "Anti-British party" in Parliament. The Standard probably holds that the party which a year ago gave a war order amounting to \$22,000,000 to two mushroom Yankee concerns and advanced them \$3,000,000 on the contract is still in a position to claim a monopoly of the loyalty in this country.

That \$22,000,000 war order with a cash advance of \$3,000,000, was handed out to Col. J. Wesley Allison and his coterie months after Sir Robert Borden is said to have "torn the strangling hand of the grafter from the throat of Canada." As a result of the great feat of statesmanship, Sir Robert Borden now finds it necessary to appoint another Royal Commission, making eighty-two he has appointed since he took over the reins of government four years ago.

When Mr. Carvell made his sensational speech on war profiteering in Parliament a few weeks ago the grafter press quoted with great glee certain utterances of the Ottawa Free Press in criticism of him. It is not quoting the utterances of the Free Press on the latest stage of the shell game.

The Shell Commission, when it wanted to purchase millions of dollars worth of shell fuses, forgot all about the "Made in Canada" slogan.

An Ottawa paper suggests that something more than hot air is needed from Major General Sir Sam Hughes at the present time.

POLICE COMMISSION WILL MEET TOMORROW MORNING

Chairman William McKay of the Police Commission, stated this morning that a meeting of the commission probably would be held on Friday morning for the purpose of considering consideration of the case of Policeman Saunders in connection with the scuffle between him and Chief McCollom in the police station Monday night. The commission partially considered the matter Tuesday morning.

Policeman Saunders was on duty again last night. Chief McCollom, when asked this morning concerning the matter, had nothing to say.

No Word From Villa's Pursuers

El Paso, Texas, April 6.—The entire Mexican situation was veiled in obscurity today, as far as the border was concerned. For the last three days not a single Mexican or American has arrived here from the interior, and the scanty news given out by the Mexican officials at Juarez, as received by telegraph, threw no light on the operations of the troops pursuing Villa. Army officers here show no hesitancy in expressing their opinion that to attempt to pursue Villa farther without the aid of railways is almost a hopeless task.

GASLIGHT CO.'S BILL MAY BE WITHDRAWN IF OPPOSED

The Corporations Committee met this morning and took up the further consideration of the Fredericton Gas Company's bill and after hearing several speakers for and against, the committee decided to go into private session. Mr. Winslow for the promoters, said that he had made all the concessions that the company felt it should be asked to make and if the committee felt that they were not enough, he would ask leave to withdraw the bill altogether. There was no compulsion on the company to extend its lines across the river or to the outlying portions of the city and if the city thought fit to put obstacles in the way of this being done, the company would not do it.

B. C. Official Got a Rake-Off

Victoria, B. C., April 6.—H. G. Hannington, inspector of legal offices, received some \$2,000 as his share of commissions paid in connection with the purchase of a new court site by the government in 1913, according to the evidence of C. C. Pemberton, of Victoria, before the public accounts commission yesterday.

Some \$25,000 was paid for the property, which according to witness, was bought more cheaply than land in the vicinity could have been sold for.

Pemberton stated that \$4,000 commission was paid and that Hannington secured half of it.

ON THE SIDE.

The robin is here—but what of it?

Speaking of birds, it was the Kyte that rose to the occasion at Ottawa.

Another shell inquiry: What will be the price of Easter eggs?

Mr. Stewart of Gloucester knows how to "stand pat."

Some amateur maple honey makers are complaining of the high price of brown sugar.

If most of us could fly like the robin we would still be flying south instead of north.

Some husbands call their wives "dear," while others pay the bills without protest.

Someone ought to see that the hens are well provided with shells for Easter—we won't stand for any unpreparedness.

The mayor has fallen down on his job again—he didn't meet the spring robin with a brass band and a civic address of welcome.

"Girl conquers wildcat," says an exchange. This is solemn justification of a belief that they can conquer anything.

The members of the local police force seem to think the place to look for peace breakers is among themselves.

The New York woman who wants a divorce from her husband because he chases her out into the snow should be patient. It will soon be summer.

SERIOUSLY ILL.

Mrs. Hubbard Miles of Gibson, is reported to be seriously ill at her home.

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