

THE DAILY MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 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 orphan, and to all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."—Abraham Lincoln.

THE PATRIOTIC POTATO SCANDAL

The members of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association devoted a portion of their time to discussing the culture of potatoes. The present price of tubers is so attractive that the subject has more than ordinary interest. A year ago the farmers were glad to sell their potatoes at one-fifth of the price they are worth today. New Brunswick secured quite additional importance, however, as a potato province, because its government decided to express the loyalty and patriotic sentiment of the people by a gift of one hundred thousand bushels to the Mother Land.

Instead, however, of following the noble example of Prince Edward Island, whose people donated one hundred thousand bushels of oats from their abundant crops, without one cent of payment, the government of this province proposed to add one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the provincial debt to pay for the gift and for some further purchases for the relief of the Belgians.

THIS WAS THE SIGNAL FOR POLITICAL PROFITEERING, AND THE GENTLEMAN MOST PROMINENT IN THIS RESPECT WAS B. FRANK SMITH, OF CARLETON COUNTY. The farmers were to be paid one dollar per barrel and Mr. Smith and all other dealers who purchased from them received ten cents profit on every barrel. Some seventy thousand barrels of potatoes were purchased, and the loyalty of the buyers was worth some \$7,000 in profit to them.

But that was a small part of what the people of this province was burdened with in this expression of loyalty. These potatoes, fresh from the hands of the pickers in the field, apparently had to be "sorted" and the job was given to business associates of B. Frank Smith in West St. John. Messrs. A. C. Smith & Co. They "sorted" and barreled or bagged these potatoes AND CHARGED THE OUTRAGEOUS PRICE OF 30 CENTS FOR EACH BARREL AND 20 CENTS FOR EACH BAG! Over twenty thousand dollars of this burden of loyal debt was spent in this way.

Everybody in the potato export business knows that the charge was exorbitant, but the Minister of Agriculture permitted his political friends to thus profit by the "loyalty of the people of New Brunswick," as Governor Wood expressed it in his warrant for the money necessary to pay for this flagrant piece of graft.

But, worse than this, nearly \$26,000 worth of potatoes, or over 13,000 barrels, were permitted to remain in St. John and were not sent forward at all. Many of the cars of this lot were condemned by Inspector Slipp. They reached St. John West sweating so badly that they were not fit to forward. But the government had paid not only for the excess supply, but the profit on them, and after they were condemned they "sorted" and packaged them at the enormous price charged by A. C. Smith & Sons.

The hog pens in the neighborhood had plenty of potatoes for months. A schooner load was hawked from port to port in Cuba; STREET HAWKERS AND MANY FRIENDLY GROCERS IN ST. JOHN GOT POTATOES FOR NEXT TO NOTHING AND SOLD THEM AT PRICES THAT KEPT THE LOCAL MARKET DOWN. There were fat jobs for months watching the rotting tubers, keeping them from freezing and trying to get rid of them.

In the Legislature last session the information given the Opposition was of a meagre character. The excuse of Minister Murray was that his deputy, Mr. Daggett, was sick! IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO BE PLACED UPON MR. DAGGETT, BOSOM FRIEND OF B. FRANK SMITH, BUT NO MINISTER OF THE CROWN CAN HOPE TO ESCAPE HIS RESPONSIBILITY IN THAT WAY.

In the report of expenditures brought down at the opening of the Legislature, the sum of \$25,800 appeared for "patriotic potatoes" in addition to \$27,400 for "Belgian potatoes." Up to October 31st over \$90,000 had been spent for the potato gift to the Mother land, and the total was

about \$143,000 of the \$150,000 provided by Governor Wood's warrants.

Now, the remarkable feature of this business is that in the Auditor's statement published in the Royal Gazette in December last of expenditures during the fiscal year ending October 31st, THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE SUM OF \$25,800 WHICH APPEARED IN THE EXPENDITURES BROUGHT DOWN IN THE HOUSE IN MARCH LAST.

THE EXPLANATION IS GIVEN THAT THIS \$25,000, LESS ABOUT \$2,999 FOR EXPENSES, HAS BEEN REFUNDED! BY WHOM, AND FOR WHAT?

No one will believe for one instant that the 13,000 barrels of condemned potatoes hawked around St. John, or sent to Cuba brought any such amount. Good potatoes were selling at very low prices, fifty, sixty and sixty-five cents per barrel. The price in Cuba was low, and freights were high, and no such amount as \$20,000 and more could have been secured from the sale of the condemned government tubers.

How, then, will Hon. Mr. Murray account for wiping out this \$25,000? He did get, we believe, a demurrage refund of about \$600 from the C. P. R., but that is a small item.

IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THE STORY THAT THE PROFITEERS, AFRAID OF ANGRY PUBLIC OPINION, HAD TO DISGORGE PART OF THEIR EXTRAVAGANT GAINS?

It is to be hoped that some pressure was brought to bear upon them, but in what position does the whole transaction place the agricultural department and its minister, Mr. Murray? THE PUBLIC WILL AWAIT A FULL AND DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE POTATO SALES, TO WHOM THEY WERE MADE, AND THE PRICES THE POTATOES BROUGHT.

Mr. Daggett is not ill this year, and the excuse made last session will not serve again. Let the people, whose children and grandchildren will pay for this "expression of loyalty," have all the facts—every item on both sides of the account.

The "Wesleyan," in an editorial on the Finance Minister's new tariff bill, says: "There would seem to be one class of citizens who still escape their fair contribution to the State. We refer to wealthy people whose money is not invested in industrial concerns, but whose interest dividends afford them large income. Manufacturing concerns, with the usual risks incident thereto, are taxed according to capital. This is all right, but the class referred to, with large income without such risks, is practically freed from any increased taxation."

Commissioner Teed has concluded his in camera enquiry into charges against Mr. H. M. Blair, and will likely submit a report to the government soon. Those close to the administration declare that Blair will be dismissed by order-in-council, no matter what the commissioner's report may be. As one prominent henchman expressed it, "he has either got to go or the government goes." The chances are that the government will go in any case, just as soon as an outraged electorate gets a whack at it.

Senator Choquette suggests that the unclaimed balances in the chartered banks of Canada, amounting to more than \$1,000,000, be turned over to the patriotic fund. The suggestion is a good one and should be acted upon by the government. Under the law the banks are unable to confiscate the money, but they confiscate the interest on it year after year. The money can very well be confiscated by the government after giving due notice to depositors.

Many people are wondering how it came about that Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, received the appointment of acting Premier over the head of Hon. Dr. Landry, who claims to be the senior member of the executive. The only explanation offered so far is that it was the result of pressure from what is known as the Fleming wing of the local government party.

Our old friend, Mr. Pinder, M. P., did not turn up at the Blair enquiry to give his testimony. It is said that the old gentleman is preparing some high explosive shells for the meeting of the Legislature. It will be remembered that Mr. Pinder took a long range shot at Col. McLeod, M. P., at the last session of the House, and got by with it.

Parliament has decided that the franchise granted to women in Manitoba must be confined to Dominion elections. The resolution by Hon. Dr. Pugsley asking that the right to vote in Dominion elections be extended to such provinces as had adopted women suffrage was voted down in the House of Commons on Monday.

God bless the glorious soldiers of France who are holding the German hosts in check at Verdun. They are performing a service to humanity and civilization that can never be forgotten.

The Blair Enquiry Has Been Concluded

Commissioner M. G. Teed completed the enquiry into the charge preferred against Mr. H. M. Blair yesterday afternoon and left for Ottawa by the evening train. Mr. J. Fred Ryan and Dr. H. H. McNally were examined at the afternoon session and Mr. Colby was recalled. The latter, fearing that legal proceedings were to be taken against him, left for Ottawa without going through the formality of paying his board bill at the Queen. Landlord McCaffrey had made arrangements to have him apprehended at McAdam but the account was settled during the evening by Dr. H. H. McNally. Commissioner Teed has gone to Ottawa but it is expected that he will report at the meeting of the government here next week.

A local lawyer, who holds a government position, stated publicly yesterday that Blair would be dismissed by order in council regardless of what Mr. Teed's finding might be. Mr. Blair tells his friends that, although he would much preferred to have had the enquiry public, he is well satisfied with it. He thinks that under the evidence the commissioner is bound to acquit him of the charge of wrongdoing.

Advice To Dyspeptics Well Worth Following

In the case of dyspepsia, the appetite is variable. Sometimes it is ravenous, again it is often very poor. For this condition there is but one sure remedy—Dr. Hamilton's Pills—which cure quickly and thoroughly. Sufferers find marked benefit in a day, and as time goes on improvement continues. No other medicine will strengthen the stomach and the digestive organs like Dr. Hamilton's Pills. They supply the materials and assistance necessary to convert every thing eaten into nourishment, into muscle, fibre and energy with which to build up the run-down system. Why not cure your dyspepsia now? Get Dr. Hamilton's Pills today, 25c. per box at all dealers.

NEWCASTLE HAS PATRIOTIC FAMILIES

Newcastle, Feb. 29.—Speaking of patriotic families, Newcastle has a record hard to beat.

John Tardy, a veteran of the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, has four sons in uniform: Joseph, in the British Navy; Franklin, in the 26th Battalion; Robert, in the 55th, and Isidore, in the 132nd. Private Pierce of the 132nd is a son-in-law.

George Johnson and his three sons, Hubert, Howard and Charles, are all in the 132nd.

Of William Ronan's sons, three have volunteered—Hubert in the Royal Navy; Pierce in the 140th, and Larkin in the 132nd.

Of W. J. Craik's sons four are doing their bit—James and George, in the 26th, and Robert and Hubert in the 132nd. A Millerton man, Christopher Crocker, has four sons serving—Clarence, in the 8th Battery; David, in the Heavy Siege Battery; Hubert, in the 140th, and Arthur in a western battalion. This makes twenty soldiers in five families.

SEVEN RECRUITS

(Continued from page eight.)

Arthur McCarthy, 18, Randall Corner.

Levis Chase, 18, Randall Corner.

Two others were enlisted this morning. All recruits are for the 140th Battalion. W. Thorpe was sent to St. John yesterday to join the battalion and the recruits enlisted yesterday afternoon were forwarded this morning.

MEETING AT OROMOCTO.

Four men volunteered at a recruiting meeting held last night at Oromocto. The meeting was arranged by Lt. Col. W. H. Gray, recruiting officer for the district. The speakers were Col. Gray, Major C. G. Pincombe, Capt. W. H. Teed and Corp. West Partington, who is a native of Oromocto. The names of the volunteers are James Cogswell, Gustav Cogswell, Neil Kimball and Isaac Paul.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

Major C. G. Pincombe and Lieut. A. H. Tweedie will address a recruiting meeting at Boiestown on Monday night. On Tuesday night Capt. W. H. Teed and Lieut. J. J. Hayes Doone will address a meeting at Bear Island.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Morris Ccovi of Gagetown, is at the Barker House. Mr. R. R. Patchell of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House. Dr. D. Townsend of River Glade, is at the Queen.

3 - DAYS LONGER - 3

OWING TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, DELAY IN STARTING, AND THE INTERRUPTION OF DOLLAR DAY, WE HAVE CONCLUDED TO CONTINUE

Our Big Linen Sale

FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS WEEK.

We find a lot of ODDS AND ENDS in our Linen Department, which we have decided to clear out at 25 PER CENT DISCOUNT OFF REGULAR PRICES.

This lot comprises Odd Lots H. S. Napkins.

1 only H. S. Cloth 8x12, 1 only H. S. Cloth 10x12, with Napkins to match.

1 dozen 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 Double Damask Table Cloths (not Shamrock).

1 dozen Cloths, sizes 2x2 1/2, 2x3, 2 1/2 x 3; also a few dozens Napkins to match some of these Cloths.

Embroidered and H. S. Towels, Guest and Large size. Some of these are slightly soiled, but otherwise perfect.

SPECIAL BARGAINS IN "SHAMROCK" LINENS.

12 only H. S. and Embroidered Linen Pillow Cases, \$1.98 pair.

6 dozen only Special Napkins at \$3.25 per dozen.

15 only 2x2 1/2 Damask Cloths at \$3.90 each.

12 only 2x3 Damask Cloths at \$4.50 each.

Your initial may be here in what we have left of hand-worked Initial Guest Towels at 50c. each; 22x40 Towels at \$1.55 pair.

Hand Embroidered Pillow Cases at \$3.00 pair. Our "Shamrock" Figured Huck Towellings are simply rushing out.

Many other lines space will not permit us to mention, which you will need to see to appreciate, at Money-saving Prices.

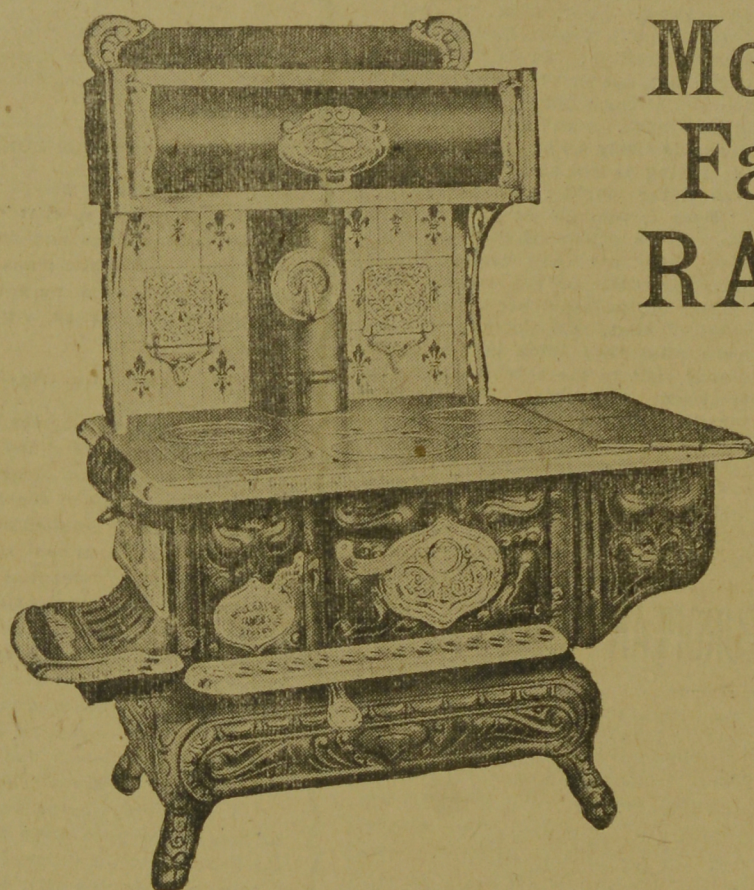
Fine Canadian and English Pillow Cottons and Sheetings, Linen Sheetings, Marseilles Quilts, soft and easily washed, "Dimity" and "Ariel" Quilts, Table Padding, H. S. and Damask Runner Cloth; Towels, Bath Mats, Tray Cloths, Table Cloths and Napkins, etc., going quickly at 10 PER CENT OFF WITH FREE HEMMING.

WE PREDICT A SPEEDY CLEARANCE OF ALL SPECIAL LINES, SO COME EARLY.

SALE CLOSES SATURDAY, MARCH 4th.

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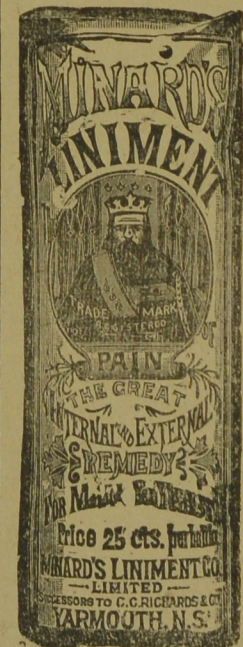
ONE DOSE RELIEVES A COLD—NO QUININE

Take "Pape's Cold Compound" every two hours until you have taken three doses, then all gripe misery goes and your cold will be broken. It promptly opens your clogged-up nostrils and the air passages of the head; stops nasty discharge or nose running; relieves the headache, dullness, feverishness, sore throat, sneezing, soreness and stiffness. Don't stay stuffed-up! Quit blowing and sniffling. Ease your throbbing head—nothing else in the world gives such prompt relief as "Pape's Cold Compound," which costs only 25 cents at any drug store.

Why Not Have a Pair of Duplex Rubber Soles put on by our repairing department.

These soles will outwear a leather sole.

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