

THE DAILY MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1917.

THE ROSS RIFLE.

The Ross Rifle Company of Quebec, on the authority of the Militia Department, Ottawa, made up 500 Ross Rifles which Colonel J. Wesley Allison asked for, from rejected parts, and which he, Col. J. Wesley Allison, sold to the British Admiralty, presumably for our Canadian soldiers.

The most startling information that has been given before the Public Accounts Committee was disclosed at the sittings of the Public Accounts Committee held in May last. The Auditor General was subpoenaed and asked to give evidence in connection with the sale of some Ross rifles to J. Wesley Allison, and in the course of his examination he referred to a communication which he had sent to the British Admiralty notifying them of the purchase of 500 Ross rifles by Col. J. Wesley Allison, and in the course of his remarks the Auditor General stated:

"I am informed by the Ross Rifle Company that the rifles (the 500 in question) are Mark 3, Home Guard pattern, made up from parts refused by the government inspectors."

This was not bad enough, as we find that a little later on in this letter the Auditor General stated in his letter to the Admiralty:

"You will observe there is a difference of \$6.00 per rifle between the buying and selling price."

Here we have a direct statement by a responsible government official that these 500 rifles were made up on the authority of the Militia Department by the Ross Rifle Company of Quebec, and composed of parts refused by the government inspectors, and that in this nefarious transaction \$6.00 per rifle went to somebody.

It is known that the rifles were shipped to the Admiralty and it has been stated repeatedly that no Ross rifles have been used in France by other than the Canadian soldiers. The conclusions to this whole matter are not difficult. Somebody arranged for Allison to buy defective rifles, gave him the opportunity of making a rake-off of \$3,000 and provided our Canadian soldiers with defective rifles.

It is stated that the Borden government will dissolve parliament before the end of the present week. Premier Borden, realizing that his government has not the ghost of a chance to win in a straight party fight, is still making desperate efforts to induce prominent Liberals to unite with him. Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., who declined a portfolio some weeks ago, has returned to Ottawa and is once more being persuaded to join the cabinet. While Mr. Carvell would be a great source of strength to any government, his friends say that he has no intention of throwing in his own lot with the Tories.

St. John Telegraph: Everybody knows what is worrying the Standard. It is the well founded fear of coming defeat. The country is against the Borden government, and if the government is beaten the government organ cannot long survive it. Hence those tears, those pitiful appeals to all good men and true to stand by the machine this once more in order that the patronage circle may still be fed at public expense. The Standard does not speak for the Conservative party, but only for the patronage circle within the party, a limited group not particularly popular with the party at large whose reputation and prospects have been gravely compromised by the "insiders."

Those who wonder why butter sells at such a high price will no doubt be interested in the following extract from the report of Commissioner W. F. O'Connor, on the high cost of living: "Of the 44 million pounds of butter sold through cold storage companies in 1916, 29 millions were held by those ten companies, five and a half million pounds being sold by one company alone and four and a half million by one other company. The great abattoir houses which control the marketing of Canadian meat, sell 22 out of this 44 millions."

Brockville Recorder: Premier Borden is a small apology of true states-

manship. He is a putty man in the hands of such astute and wily manipulators as Meighen and Rogers. The infamous "disfranchising bill" is an evidence of the pliability of the Prime Minister. The women of Canada generally are disfranchised. After applying the axe to the women who have worked so hard for the Red Cross and other patriotic organizations, the Premier has the impudence to write a Vancouver woman that if he is returned to power the franchise will be extended to all women possessing the necessary qualifications. If the picaresque Prime Minister thinks he can trim the ladies, he is even of narrower gage than people take him to be.

The action of the City Council in appointing a committee to consider the advisability of purchasing a wood lot seems to meet with hearty approval. If a lot can be procured in the vicinity of the city at a reasonable figure, it ought to be purchased. The fuel problem during the coming winter is likely to be a serious one, and it is well to be prepared for it. There does not, on the face of it, seem to be any chance for the city to lose money on a deal such as that proposed.

The fact of the matter is, as the Toronto Star shows, that Hon. W. J. Hanna, although nominally food controller, is not so in fact. The government has a string on him and retains control. The order-in-council makes it clear enough that he can put no regulation into effect without securing in advance the consent and approval of the Government.

An Ottawa despatch states the reorganizing of the Borden cabinet will mean the dropping of Messrs. Kemp, Burrill, Crothers and Roche. The name of Hon. J. D. Hazen appeared in a discard list given out some weeks ago, but apparently he intends to hold on a while longer.

It is stated that Mr. Clarence Jameson, Tory M. P. for Digby, is to become chairman of the Civil Service Commission in place of Prof. Adam Short, who will be appointed chairman of the publications branch of the archives department.

A Port Hope, Ont., despatch says that potatoes are selling at that place for \$1 per bag, and the chances are they will be cheaper.

Through Our Sieve

Why not a greater production campaign for wood?

Everybody should cut down some kind of tree this winter.

Perhaps the easiest tree to cut up for fuel would be the hat tree.

Women's skirts are, like father, to be shorter and tighter.

Even Attila, the notorious Hun, never dropped a bomb on a hospital.

Russia could get along better with fifty-six fewer varieties of socialism.

Nobody cares to be the Robespierre of a modern revolution—not if he knows it.

Germany, as the mother-in-law of European royalty, has certainly broken up a lot of happy homes.

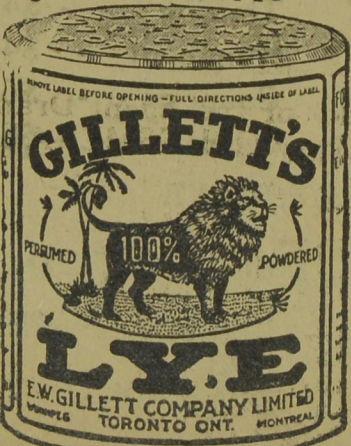
A woman's idea of economy is to have her husband waste \$3 worth of his time putting up a 10-cent shelf.

Eat more corn! Certainly! Somebody else eat more corn; it's good for you—honest!

"On many a golf links, writes K. S. H., 'in many a bunch of grass, many a golf ball is 'spurious versenkt.'"

If we have a "greater woodpile" campaign this winter some pessimist will no doubt revive that old song, "Woodman, spare that tree."

GILLETT'S LYE EATS DIRT



SIFTON IS STILL BUSY AT OTTAWA

A Last Desperate Effort is Being Made to Form a Fusion Federal Cabinet.

Ottawa, Oct. 2. — Cabinet reconstruction plans which have gone through so many kaleidoscopic changes during the past two or three months, are still in process of development. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Clifford Sifton, who is the real man behind have been negotiating persistently of late with certain outstanding Liberals in a last effort to induce them to enter a fusion cabinet in preference to accepting other Liberals of considerably less prominence, where entry into the cabinet would not bring any substantial advantage to them.

It is understood that negotiations are again with Frank B. Carvell, although the latter has refused at least thrice to enter a cabinet under Sir Robert Borden unless it was to be a real union government. It is stated on good authority, that another invitation to reconsider his former refusal to enter the cabinet has been extended also to N. W. Rowell, leader of the Ontario opposition. Mr. Rowell is now in western Canada but may be in Ottawa next week.

Mr. Carvell arrived in Ottawa this evening from New Brunswick whither Premier Sifton of Alberta went this week. As far as can be learned Sir Clifford's brother is now inclined to favorably consider entering the Borden administration if the fusion is to include any Liberals of real prominence or following. Instead of Isaac Pitblado or Hon. Edward Brown of Manitoba who were regarded last week as likely to come in, it is stated that negotiations now contemplate the bringing in of Hon. A. B. Hudson, attorney general of Manitoba.

From Quebec the only negotiations so far as can be learned are with Lt. Col. C. C. Ballentyne, a prominent Montreal business man, who has always been recognized as being a Liberal, but who has never taken any active part in politics.

Good Ones or Not at All.

Premier Borden recognizes that if he is to secure any real advantage from the inclusion of Liberals in his cabinet they must be men of prominence such as mentioned. Sir Clifford Sifton is said to be of the same mind. What inducements are being held out or what the basis of agreement in regard to policy is can only be surmised. According to present prospects there is little likelihood of any final agreement or disagreement being reached until next week. Meanwhile the election date will not be fixed, although parliament will be dissolved in a day or so.

In the meantime the goings and comings of the politicians are the subject of much speculation in political circles at the capital. No one is sure just what is going to happen and it is safe to say that even Sir Robert Borden himself is still groping although he hopes to end the negotiations one way or the other early next week. Among those who arrived today at the Chateau Laurier were Messrs. F. F. Pardee, M. P. E. M. Macdonald, M. P., Frank Carvell, M. P., Hon. J. A. Calder of Saskatchewan and Lieut. Col. C. C. Ballentyne.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier returned to the capital today after his conference with his Liberal lieutenants in Montreal yesterday. He will go to Toronto early next week to spend two or three days there conferring with his Ontario friends in regard to matters of policy and organization. The Liberal leader is in receipt of a most voluminous correspondence from all parts of the Dominion and the end of the session has brought no surcease of toil to him.

He is listening to counsel from every hand and it is expected will shortly issue a statement to the public declaring succinctly his stand upon the various problems facing the country which will be the issues in the coming campaign.

PLENTIFUL CROP OF POTATOES

Regina, Oct. 2. — Saskatchewan will have over 5,000,000 bushels of potatoes this year, according to the estimate of the Department of Agriculture.

GEN. HODGKINS OFF FOR LONDON

(Canadian Press direct wire.) Ottawa, Oct. 3. — General Hodgkins, formerly adjutant general of the Canadian forces, left Ottawa yesterday on his way to London, England, to take up his duties as a member of the joint committee on demobilization.

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C. P. R.....	148
Crucible steel.....	73 1/2
Erie.....	20 1/2
Erie 1st pfd.....	39 1/2-2
Marine Pfd.....	86 1/2
Union Pac.....	127
U. S. Steel.....	110 1/2
Air Brake.....	179
Kenn.....	39
Marine Com.....	28
Reading.....	81 1/2
Rubber.....	57 1/2
Studebaker.....	44 1/2
Bethlehem.....	94 1/2
Wool.....	47 1/2

MONTREAL

Civic.....	71 1/2
Detroit.....	110 1/2
Quebec.....	17
Toronto.....	64 1/2
Braz.....	40
Cement.....	59 1/2
Iron.....	59 1/2
Steel Co.....	55 1/2-2
Spanish.....	14 1/2
Shaw.....	115
Laur. Pulp.....	185
Scotia.....	88

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