

## SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE ON THE WITNESS STAND

Canada's Food Baron Not Troubled With Qualms of Conscience---Denied That He Had Ever Exerted Any Influence at Ottawa for Preferential Treatment in the Matter of Bacon--Admitted That His Profits Were Large.

(Toronto Globe.)

The personal relations of Sir Joseph Flavell to the war activities of the Wm. Davies Company, of which he is president, were laid open to public view on Saturday before the Government Commission inquiring into the profits of cold storage companies in Canada. And it was an interesting story. Not that Sir Joseph added much information to what had been learned about the bacon business. E. C. Fox, the manager, had previously told all there was to tell. But it gave counsel an opportunity to confront the witness with statements that have been common talk among bacon consumers. It also gave Sir Joseph an opportunity to make a statement or

two that he desired to direct to the critics of the outer world.

Quietly came the admission during the course of the examination on Saturday morning by Sir Joseph that the day after war was declared he had had an interview with Henry Denny, Mr. Denny at the time was on his way to the war office to receive the appointment of buyer of bacon for the British Government. But beyond saying that they would be glad to serve in any way they could in Canada, Sir Joseph said, he had not discussed personal business with Mr. Denny. Further, Sir Joseph most emphatically declared that he had never exerted any influence from Ottawa to secure preferential treatment for the company of which he is the head.

Not Backward About Profits.

Sir Joseph said he had "no qualms of conscience" about accepting the tremendous war profits, which he was willing to agree were very large. He said it easily, as the complement of a question of Mr. James W. Bain, government counsel. But he would not allow Mr. Bain to say that he

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took all that came to him and looked for more. And Sir Joseph had just as hard words to say on Saturday about a certain class of war profits as he had one year ago. He took the opportunity to repeat the now well-known statement he made about munition manufacturers. "If it is profits in relation to what I have seen and what I have told you, then your profits ought to go to the hell to which they belong," he said at that time, and he added on Saturday: "I would say just the same today." Sir Joseph agreed that the manufacturers had to make a profit, and he said they were entitled to it for showing courage in going into the enterprise.

Sir Joseph was the principal witness on Saturday. He was on the stand practically all day, and he sat in his chair nervously moving his hands almost all the time, although

it was more than likely a nervous driving force. He repeatedly removed his glasses, pressed his eyes, and toyed with his white beard. But then he found a Bible on his desk, which is used for swearing in witnesses, and he continuously opened and closed it. He was sure of his statements except at times when he would look toward his manager and say: "Is that right, Fox?" having the fullest confidence in his manager's judgment. Sir Joseph had a pleasing smile which he bestowed upon those around him at occasional intervals. His counsel, W. N. Tilley, K.C., was successful in being allowed to take up his examination first. This was according to plan, for Mr. Tilley conducted his witness along a well-prepared path. Sir Joseph was not to be put off with a yes or a no as an answer, but he chose to explain the questions at considerable length.

Counsel Sum Up Case.

In the afternoon Mr. Bain and his associate counsel, Mr. Gordon Waldron, for "Saturday Night," put the witness through a thorough cross-examination. Mr. Bain with his pleasant smiling manner and Mr. Waldron in his melodramatic way forming a strong contrast. The three counsel briefly summed up the evidence of the inquiry, and Chairman G. F. Henderson promised on behalf of himself and his colleagues, Mr. G. T. Clarkson and Mr. A. B. Brodie, to bring in their finding at an early date.

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## GREAT REJOICING IN FRANCE OVER THE LATEST VICTORY

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

PARIS, Oct. 24.—It would be hard to exaggerate the enthusiasm aroused through the length and breadth of France by yesterday's splendid achievement of the French army on the Alsace front, falling on the anniversary of the recapture of Fort Douaumont by General Petain.

The blow apparently fell with all the force of a surprise, for it is understood that the German general staff held the opinion that after his incomplete success in the spring offensive the French leader would not find it advisable to resume offensive operations before the end of the year, and this opinion was shared by a great many Frenchmen.

The military commentators emphasize the great importance of the capture of Fort De Malmaison, the key to the whole ridge extending to Craonne. The French from their new positions are able to enfilade the German positions not only along the Chemin-des-Dames line, but at Anitz-le-Chateau, and to direct their fire directly along the valley to Laon.

The Whole German Line in Danger.

LONDON, Oct. 24, via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—There are indications now that the whole German line on the western plateau must soon give way. At least six divisions were ordered yesterday to hold on to the positions at any cost, as they were of great value.

The struggle is now being waged for the possession of a long ridge which bars the approach to Laon from the south. It is the strongest natural fortress in northern France, and a corner stone of the Hindenburg line. On the relief map it resembles a huge club, the end expanding into a jumble of many fortified positions. Everywhere along this barrier the Germans face the French across a very narrow space, in places only twenty yards wide, and the battle will now be fought out over this narrow ridge. French capture of this barrier would render German occupancy of the Ailette valley, and perhaps considerably beyond, impossible.

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## ROOT SEED GROWING A PROFITABLE BUSINESS

New Brunswick Farmers Should Take It Up in a Business Like Manner--A Great Risk Incurred by Canada in Importing Seed From Europe--Seed Should be Produced at Home.

Among the problems that the great war has created for Canada, the problem of growing root seed, i. e., seed of Swede and fall turnips, mangels and field carrots, may seem rather insignificant to the average Canadian citizen. Yet that problem is today one of the most vital to the Canadian farmer, notably the dairy farmer, inasmuch as it is directly connected with the providing of that indispensable stock food that is generally referred to as "roots."

In 1915, Canada imported a total of 1,927,313 pounds of turnip seed and 1,056,060 pounds of mangel and beet seed. In 1916, the import of turnip seed dwindled to 150,855 pounds and the import of mangel and beet seed to 636,797 pounds; and for 1917, the figures stand at 291,379 pounds for turnip seed and 891,677 pounds for mangel and beet seed. This means that Canada imported a total of these most important farm seeds, in the years of 1916 and 1917, which falls short of the import of 1915 alone of, roughly, one million pounds. It should be added that practically every pound of field root seed used in this country is of European origin.

That Canada was running a great risk of having her supply of root seed from Europe shut off, partly or wholly, as a result of the war was regretfully predicted in an Experimental Farms bulletin entitled, "Growing Field Root, Vegetable and Flower in Canada," issued early in 1915. In the said bulletin an appeal was made—as has also repeatedly been done later in many issues of "Seasonable Hints" distributed by the Dominion Experimental Farms System—to Canadian farmers and others interested in the seed supply being kept up, urging that Canada could not afford to take the risk of relying on import from Europe either under prevailing war conditions, or immediately after the conclusion of peace. It was emphatically stated that "Canada should make herself independent of foreign markets and produce at home what now has to be bought from abroad. Canadian farmers should not only try to meet the emergency demand for

field root seed in the immediate future, but also try to establish a permanent seed growing industry which would make them independent of any other country." The bulletin went further and predicted "that many districts of Canada where root seed growing is unknown at present, will prove themselves not only able to produce seed of food quality, but also to be especially well adapted to seed raising."

To what extent this prediction was justified, will be shown by the data following, showing what results in root seed raising were obtained in the year 1915. In that year the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa raised from a field of about 1½ acres, a first class mangel seed crop at the rate of about 1,150 pounds of seed to the acre. Mangel seed was produced at the Experimental Farm at Agassiz, B. C., at the rate of 2,100 pounds per acre, at the Experimental Station at Lennoxville, Que., at the rate of 1,150 pounds per acre and at the Experimental Station at Kentville, N. S., at the rate of 2,100 pounds per acre. The same year the Experimental Station at Lennoxville, Que., raised Swede turnip seed at the rate of close to 1,250 pounds to the acre.

But what about the profit? Does it pay the grower to raise that kind of crop? As an answer it may be stated that there was, according to records kept, a net profit of about \$80 per acre from the mangel seed crop at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in 1915. And this in spite of the fact that the men handling the crop were quite unfamiliar with the same.

The above figures indicate, most decidedly, that there are, in Canada, great opportunities for developing a new field in agricultural activity promising substantial rewards, from a profit standpoint, to those who take up root seed growing conscientiously and in a business-like manner.

May it also be added that the raising in Canada of the seed needed in the country will directly help to increase the average yield of the root crops of the Dominion. This will, however, be discussed in a special article.



## Directions for Employers

Who Purpose Claiming Exemption  
for Class One Men in Their Employ

THE following course is recommended for employers who have in their employ any number of men—bachelors and widowers without children (not otherwise excepted) who were 20 years old on the 13th October, 1917, and whose 34th birthday did not occur before Jan. 1st, 1917, and who propose claiming exemption for any of these men, to continue in work which is deemed to be in the National interest:

First, it will simplify matters for you and for the exemption tribunals if you instruct Class One men in your employ to go up for medical examination at the nearest Medical Board Centre.

Only Class One men, who upon medical examination are placed in Category A are liable for immediate service under the Act. Class One men placed in Categories B, C or E satisfy immediate requirements if they attach their medical report to their claim for exemption.

### Employer's Statement and Schedule

Second, prepare a full statement of the total number of your employees grouping them according to their respective occupations and qualifications and stating the number in each group. Indicate the possibility or otherwise of replacing the labour of Class One men with the labour of those unavailable for military service, or outside the statutory class called up; the extent to which the withdrawal of men in the statutory class would affect the business, the reason for considering that the carrying on of the business is in the National interest, and such other facts and circumstances as may appear to be relevant.

Append to this general statement and classification, a schedule of the names, ages and occupations of all men in Class One, indicating as to those who have been medically examined, the medical Category in which they have been placed, noting against each name whether or not you propose to claim exemption on behalf of the man.

Where exemption is claimed employer should state his opinion whether such exemption should be conditional on the man's continuing to follow his present occupation and whether it would suffice if exemption were granted for one, two or more months, as the case may be.

A copy of both statement and schedule should be prepared for each man for whom the employer is applying for exemption.

### Forms for Exemption

These forms may be obtained on request from any Post Master, who will transmit the forms when filled in, to the Registrar.

Claims for exemption must be made not later than November 10th.

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