

THE DAILY MAIL

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THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1917.

OPPOSITION GALLERY PLAY.

Mr. Baxter and other members of the government which was bowled out of office on February 24th by an indignant and outraged electorate, have suddenly manifested a keen interest in the welfare of returned soldiers. It is a little late in coming—but better late than never. When in office the matter was one which gave them no particular concern, but now, when they sit in the cool shades of opposition and have no offices to bestow, they, with the hope that the government might be prejudiced in the eyes of the gallant men who have returned from the front, proposed an amendment to the address in reply to His Honor's speech expressing alleged regret that in making appointments to office in the six weeks it has been in power, the government did not consider the claims of returned soldiers. Fortunately, we have in an answer to a notice of enquiry brought down in the Legislature recently a very fair record of the list of vacancies created by the present government, and it is herewith presented in order that he who runs might read:

Hon. Mr. Murray, in reply to Mr. Smith's (Carleton) enquiry, said:

Question 1.
What officials have been dismissed or replaced since the present government came into office?

Answer:
Lewis E. Young, Clerk of the Circuits for county of Carleton; cause, retention of fees paid to him between 1910 and 1916.

Willie T. Perron, police magistrate for the town of Edmundston; cause, political partizanship.

Dr. A. M. Sormany as registrar of births, deaths and marriages and as chairman of the local board of health for the town of Edmundston; cause, political partizanship.

Max D. Cormier, as clerk of the peace, clerk of the county court and clerk of the circuits; cause, political partizanship.

Geo. Gilbert as clerk of the peace, clerk of the county court and judge of probates for the county of Gloucester; cause, political partizanship.

Ralph St. John Freeze, clerk of the county court of Kings county; cause, political partizanship.

A. E. McGinley and Charles Nevins, censors of moving picture films; cause, political partizanship.

James W. Smith, as member of and chairman of the local board of health for the county of York; cause, incompetency.

Charles L. Peck as registrar of deeds and wills for the county of Albert; cause, allowing his office to be used for political purposes on nomination day to the exclusion of the public.

B. M. Mullin, M.D., as secretary of the provincial board of health; cause, political partizanship.

D. F. Maxwell, C. E., inspecting engineer of the Valley Railway, and J. L. Peeney, C. E., provincial highway engineer, replaced by Burton M. Hill, C. E., for greater economy in the public service.

A. C. Fleming, carpenter, foreman public buildings; cause, political partizanship.

How envious the returned soldiers will be when they scan the above list! How disappointed they will be that one of their number was not called upon to fill the position of clerk of the Carleton circuit court! Then, there are the positions of police magistrate of Edmundston and registrar of births for Madawaska, to say nothing of such fat jobs as clerk of the peace for Kings, clerk of the circuits for Madawaska, and chairman of the York County Board of Health. What a scramble there would have been for these positions of honor and emolument had they been turned over to returned soldiers.

Then there is the position of censor of moving pictures, long held by the editor of the St. John Standard. One would have thought that this great patriot would long ago have turned the position over to a returned soldier, but he did nothing of the kind. He clung to the job and the salary until the government kicked him out. Now we find him condemning the government for not giving the position he formerly held to some battle-scarred veteran. Mr. Baxter's amendment was nothing more than a lame attempt to manufacture some cheap political capital for his party, and it met with the fate it deserved. The returned soldiers are not to be caught with chaff of that kind.

The tragically sudden death of Mr. F. W. deMille, local manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was a painful shock to the people of this community. Mr. deMille was a native of Halifax, and came to Fredericton two years ago from Waterloo, Ont.

He was a young man of intelligence and had his life been spared he would undoubtedly have filled a high position in the banking world. He gave close attention to the business of the great financial institution with which he was employed and did all in his power to further its interests. His untimely death is a great loss to the community, and the heartfelt sympathy of all classes will go out to the widow and children in their great bereavement.

Globe: It is a mistaken policy on the part of legislators, whether in power or in opposition, to make the problem of the returned soldier a political problem, and to develop and encourage hopes which in the very nature of things cannot be realized. Our soldiers are fighting because fight they must, if this country is to retain its independence, and the politicians, — great and small — the business men and all others who remain at home must give what help they can to the tremendous problems to be faced when, victorious our boys return again to take their places in the community as peaceful citizens.

Premier Brewster, of British Columbia, has accepted the resignation of Hon. M. A. McDonald, attorney general. An enquiry conducted by Judge Gregory showed that Mr. McDonald had accepted for his party prior to the last election, a contribution of \$15,000 from R. J. McKenzie, a brother of Sir William McKenzie. Mr. J. W. deB. Farris, M.P.P., a son of Hon. L. P. Farris, of White's Cove, N.B., is now acting Attorney General.

It is pleasing to note that the boy scouts are taking an active interest in the movement for greater production. They might take a census of the householders of the city who are cultivating garden plots and raising chickens.

The members of the opposition in the Legislature during the debate on Tuesday evening, carefully refrained from assuming any responsibility for the nasty attacks made by their press upon the Acadians of the province shortly after the last election.

Through Our Sieve

Personal—Alma Mater is paying her annual visit to Fredericton.

Doubtless the Kaiser and his court are feeling a deep Prussian blue.

White-collar jobs are beginning to show blowholes under the war strain.

It is at least time to intrench the hardy radish and to establish outposts of the valiant bean.

These are the days when the ice man and the coal man attack simultaneously.

It is advisable, when planting canned baked beans to plant the whole can.

The local opposition organ is at the present time wandering about in "no man's land."

Russia would do well to keep its head out of the stars until it gets its feet out of the mud.

Russia's new-born democracy is in the unpleasant predicament of having to beg the army to attend to its fighting.

While it is interesting to learn that the Wolf comet has a tail, we shall refuse to get excited on the subject until we have seen the comet wag it.

Many a man with a narrow gauge mind has lost his mental balance by attempting to entertain two or more ideas at the same time.

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MORE INFORMATION THAN HE ASKED FOR

Premier Foster Tells Why the Perry Point Bridge Contract Was Cancelled.

Hon. Mr. Foster's reply to Mr. Dickson's inquiry in the Legislature on Monday said:

Ques. 1. Did Mr. Walter E. Foster of the City of St. John, on the 30th day of March last, or any time previous to the 4th day of April last, instruct Mr. A. R. Wetmore, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, to write William J. R. Carten, of the City of St. John, notifying him that the contract for the building of the Perry Point Bridge, in the County of Kings, was cancelled?

Ans. Mr. Walter E. Foster of the City of St. John did on or about the 30th day of March last, after the resignation of the late Government had been accepted by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and His Honor had entrusted him with the formation of a Government, upon finding upon the records of the Public Works Department that a contract had been executed between the Province and one William J. R. Carten, for the building of the Perry Point Bridge on March 24th last by the late Government, after its defeat on February 24th, while the tender for the building of the said bridge was only accepted on March 27th last, instruct Mr. A. R. Wetmore, the Provincial Engineer, to write the said Mr. Carten not to proceed with the said work until further instructed and afterwards, when the Minister of Public Works had investigated the matter, an Order-in-Council was passed confirming the instructions so given by him, the said Mr. Foster.

Ques. 2. Was the said Walter E. Foster sworn in as a member of the Executive of this Province on said 30th of March last, or at a date prior to 4th of April last? If not, what authority did he have to issue such instructions?

Ans. Mr. Walter E. Foster was sworn in as a member of the Executive of this Province on April 4th last. He gave the instructions referred to by virtue of the authority vested in him as First Minister when he accepted the duty of forming a Government at the request of His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor.

Ques. 3. Is the said Walter E. Foster the same person who contested the County of St. John on February the 24th and was not elected by the people?

Ans. The said Mr. Walter E. Foster is the same person who contested the County of St. John on February 24th and was not elected and the same person who was afterwards elected by acclamation for the County of Victoria.

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Rubber.....	55
Studebaker.....	87
Bethlehem.....	141
Wool.....	48½

MONTREAL	
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Detroit.....	112
Quebec.....	26
Toronto.....	78½
Braz.....	41½
Cement.....	61
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