

THE DAILY MAIL

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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1917.

VERY BUSINESS-LIKE.

Mr. B. Frank Smith, ex-Minister of Public Works had another uncomfortable day of it in the Legislature yesterday. He has been asking a lot of questions of late and yesterday he got a dose of his own medicine. An answer to an enquiry by Mr. Michaud brought out the interesting information that on February 2nd last Mr. Smith wrote the White Company of Boston to the effect that the government would pay no commission to local agents on motor trucks, as it proposed to buy them direct. On the same day he had a check for \$5,000 issued in favor of the Smith Foundry Co., the local agents of the company. There was no contract with the Smith Foundry Company at the time for motor trucks, but they got the check all the same, and it was "on contract" to furnish motor trucks for road building. It transpires that the date on which the letter was written to the White Company, and the date on which the check for \$5,000 was issued to the Smith Foundry Company synchronized with the date on which the writs were issued for the election. The people took advantage of the opportunity and put the Murray government off the job, and blasted the hopes of Mr. B. Frank Smith.

A GOOD ANSWER.

Out on the prairies there is a patriotic and apparently too trustful Canadian who appeals to the Winnipeg Free Press for enlightenment. He wants to know how the Borden government made use of the extension of the parliamentary term which was granted to it a year ago. In other words, he seeks information as to whether the government has been partisan or has administered the affairs of the country without regard to patronage. This is the way in which he appeals to the editor of the Free Press:

Sir—To settle a disputed question, can you tell us if during the extension of time for the past twelve months given to the Dominion government, which can only have been done with the assent of the opposition, all appointments to the Senate, and all other fruits of office, have been equally divided between both parties? This would be so obviously fair that I feel sure it has been done; otherwise, all the credit for patriotic sacrifice belongs to the Liberal party, as if a general election had been held when due, they stood an equal chance of coming into power.

The Editor of the Free Press thus makes answer:

No doubt our contributor knows the answer to his question. It is that the government has in the period added to its life, played the political game as respects contracts, patronage and appointments as relentlessly as at any moment since the day they took office. In parliament two weeks ago Arthur Meighen made a characteristic defence of the exercise by the government of its powers under the Act extending its life.

In the course of an important speech delivered in Parliament yesterday by Sir Robert Borden, announcement was made that a form of selected draft would at once be adopted in Canada in connection with recruiting for overseas service. Recruiting has been at a standstill for weeks and the government feels that the time has arrived when it should stop humbugging and get down to business. As usual the government has taken a leaf out of the book of the United States, which adopted a policy of selective draft upon entering the war.

The Provincial Legislature has adjourned until the evening of Monday, May 28th. This will give some of the members a chance to attend the Win the War Conference at Montreal this week and it will give others a chance to aid in the greater production movement.

It seems that the patriotic St. John Standard, which is howling because the government supporters in the Legislature voted down Mr. Baxter's want of confidence motion, charged the province a good round sum for publishing Mr. B. Frank Smith's "road policy." When it comes to gathering in public money, the Standard is certainly enterprising.

THE VOLUNTARY SPIRIT IS APPARENTLY DEAD

Sir Sam Was Wise Enough to Get From Under Before the Slump Came--Blondin Is Making a Mess of Things in Quebec--Major General Mewburn Found His Job An Uphill One.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

Ottawa, May 14. — Sir Edward Kemp, the present Minister of Militia — I wonder how many voters know that he has got Sir Sam's job—is up against it in the matter of recruiting. Overseas or Home Guard — nobody jumps. Major General Mewburn, who is managing the Home Guard movement, said at Winnipeg the other day that he was all through if the Government didn't help him out by enforcing the compulsory clauses of the Militia Act or adopting some sort of conscription. And all the other colonels agreed with him. They were very sore about it. They said the voluntary spirit was quite dead.

And may be it is. At any rate, Sir Sam is convinced that he got out at the right time. He tells his friends so. Whether accident or policy was the cause, Sir Sam seems to have got from under just when the slump came. At his nomination meeting in Lindsay Sir Sam repeated his statement that the Government had issued orders to ease up on recruiting almost a year and a half ago, thereby starting the chill which subsequently killed the voluntary spirit. Sir Thomas White says the charge is absolutely without foundation and there the matter stands—Sir Sam's word against Sir Thomas'. You can take your choice. The fact remains that when the alleged order to ease up on recruiting was issued recruits were pouring in at the rate of a thousand a day. Something happened to put a crimp in it.

Sam's Turn to Laugh.

Sir Sam considers that it is his turn to laugh. After all the personal equation does count. Moreover, as the poet remarks, sweet are the uses of advertisement. Sam never dodged the lime-light. The Ottawa correspondents were always welcome at his headquarters. Sir Edward is not exactly the kind of flower that is anxious to blush unseen, but he has no knack with the newspaper men and there is a great abatement of publicity for the Militia Department in consequence.

It is conceded that Major General Mewburn had a superman's job to get recruits for the Home Guard. It was not in human power to beat the game they gave him to play. No wonder he got sore. The Home Guard is said to be Sir Edward's own particular happy thought. If he could get fifty thousand men who would be content to advertise themselves as willing to defend their country anywhere except where bullets were flying it would look as if the Government were doing some thing. What's more, it would, by a little oblique reasoning, bring Premier Borden's limit of five hundred thousand and that much nearer. The only thing wrong with the scheme was that the fifty thousand men stay! out. Sir Sam might have got away with it. But Sir Edward's personality does not inspire fifty thousand men to label themselves yellow for a dollar a day.

This makes Canada a safer country for the slacker to live in than the United States, which is going in for selective conscription. The people whom Colonel Blondin advised to slip over the border can now flock back again. The United States is going to do her bit and, being an undiluted democracy, is going to show how arbitrarily she can do it. At the same time, Sir Edward will find small comfort in the

thought that Canada quits because the United States is beginning. That is one of the ways they explain the failure of recruiting—not any fault in the Government or in Sir Edward — but general feeling that it is the United States' turn.

Blondin's Work.

Colonel Blondin, known to fame as the verbal perforator of Union Jacks, is messing up the recruiting problem in Quebec. Colonel Blondin is not having much success with his special train and his entourage of twenty-six gorgeous officers. It has been estimated that what recruits he has got have cost about five thousand dollars each. The truth seems to be that the simple-minded people of Quebec do not trust Blondin the Colonel, having heard Blondin the Nationalist talk with the other side of his face. They regard Colonel Blondin as the Militia Department's practical joke on Quebec. Surely no one would take Blondin seriously as a fire-eater!

Another colonel Quebec cannot understand is Armand Laverne, whom Sir Edward Kemp is now utilizing as a source of loyalty and enthusiasm for the British cause. With such a pair as Blondin and Laverne doing the missionary work, Quebec would appear to be justified in disbelieving the message. Sir Edward's tactics in employing Laverne have earned him the anger of some of the most influential Conservatives in Montreal. They fully expect that Sir Edward will call in Henri Bourassa next.

Through Our Sieve

Among spring improvements you of course have noticed the improvement in the Daily Mail.

Amateur gardeners give your potatoes a chance, don't plant them too near the surface.

The Germans will like their war still less when the full bill for it comes in.

Speaking of war's alarms, set yours to arouse you in time to do your garden work before breakfast.

In the meantime this work in the garden is going to increase the appetite and make production even more necessary.

However, let us rejoice that it still takes more doughnut to go around a large hole than around a small one.

If you have a 30-by-20 garden, don't sit down and wait for someone to plow it. Spade it up!

A stepmother may not fail in any of her duties, but she falls short when it comes to enthusiasm; there is no substitute in this big world for a mother's enthusiasm.

STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK

Beet Sugar.....	90
C. P. R.....	160
Crucible steel.....	68½
Erie.....	24½
Erie 1st pfd.....	39 1-2
Marine Pfd.....	80
Union Pac.....	134½
U. S. Steel.....	122
Air Brake.....	179
Kenn.....	45½
Marine Com.....	27½
Reading.....	88
Rubber.....	55
Studebaker.....	81
Bethlehem.....	141
Wool.....	48½

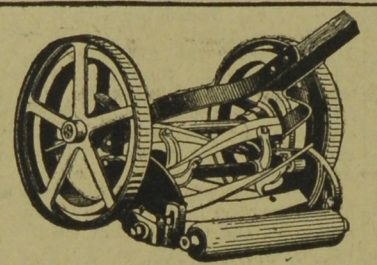
MONTREAL.

Civic.....	78
Detroit.....	112
Quebec.....	26
Toronto.....	78½
Braz.....	40½
Cement.....	61
Iron.....	61½
Steel Co.....	59
Spanish.....	13½
Shaw.....	122
Can Cottons.....	52 1-2
Laur. Pulp.....	185
Scotia.....	93½

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