

New Winter Coatings Velvets and Velvet Cords

NEW COATINGS in Shades of Brown, Black, Green, Grey, Burgundy, Fawn, Purple and Blue, at \$3.75, \$4.25, \$4.50 and \$5.75 per yard. Also Plaids and Check Coatings at \$3.55 to \$4.50 yard.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF PLAIN VELVETS, 22 inches wide, in Red, Navy, Green, Garnet, Cream, Brown, Grey, Black, Fawn, Purple, Copen Blue, Dark Brown, Mid. Grey, Dark Navy and Taupe at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per yard.

PLAIN BLACK VELVET, 24 in. wide, at \$1.50 per yard. Also a nice line of Plain Velvet 27 inches wide in Black, Dark Navy, Plum, Taupe, Dark Brown, Green and Wine, at \$1.75 per yard.

PLAIN BLACK VELVET 36 inches wide \$2.55 per yard.

A FULL ASSORTMENT OF CORDUROY VELVET 27 inches wide, in Brown, Purple, Copen Blue, Grey, Electric Blue, Rose, Tan, Red, Green, Black, Dark Grey and Fawn, at \$1.00 per yard.

WHITE CORDUROY, 36 inches wide, at \$1.35 per yard.

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SILK WAISTS, many styles \$1.75 to \$7.50

WAISTS in Vyella, Poplin, Flannelette, etc. \$1.50 to \$3.00

Values in UNDERWEAR, FLANNELETTE GOWNS, HOSIERY, GLOVES, etc., that cannot be duplicated today.

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Best Pickling Vinegar

Only 35 cents a Gallon

BEST MIXED PICKLING SPICES 29c. lb.
4 POUNDS ONIONS 25c.
GREEN TOMATOES 35c. peck

PLUMS	SUGAR
Another shipment of Green Gage and Blue Plums expected to arrive soon.	9 lbs. Granulated Sugar \$1
	10 lbs. Brown Sugar \$1
MOLASSES	CORN SYRUP
Fancy Barbadoes, very light in color, \$1.10 a gallon.	Large 5 lb. Pails 50c
	Smaller 2 lb. Pails 25c
MIXED STARCH	FLOUR
Blue and White Laundry Starch, 12c. lb.	4 lbs. Bread Flour 25c
	24 1/2 lb. Bags \$1.65
	98 lb. Bags \$5.85

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We sell almost as low as ever, notwithstanding the ever-increasing cost of these goods in the wholesale markets.

Pink Pills 39c	Fruitatives (small) 19c
Dodd's Kidney Pills 39c	Chase's Linseed and Turpentine 21c
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Chase's Kidney Pills 21c	(2 bottles for 25c.)
Nerviline 21c	Fowler's Extract Strawberry 29c
Zam-Buk 39c	Fellows' Compound \$1.30
Fruitatives (large) 39c	Johnson's Liniment 19c

And many others at equally low prices. Government stamp added to these prices.

Yerran's

Branch Stores Woodstock and St. John

CROOKED WORK EXPOSED AT THE POTATO ENQUIRY

Crooked Methods of Transacting Public Business Employed by the Old Government---Surplus Potatoes Bought by B. F. Smith Allowed to Rot and the "Party" Tried to Conceal the Loss From the Public

St. John, N. B., September 25th.—One of the most peculiar financial transactions in the history of the province was related yesterday before Commissioner McQueen in the inquiry into the "patriotic potatoes" transactions of the former provincial government when Rev. J. B. Daggett formerly secretary for agriculture, told what he knew of the note for \$32,861 which was given in settlement of that transaction.

It has been told already that the payment shown on the provincial books was merely a payment by promissory note and that the note, which was given by A. C. Smith & Company of West St. John, was not paid by them but by a friend of the then government who forwarded the funds from Moncton. This in itself looked interesting but Mr. Daggett's explanation proved even more so.

When the government decided to purchase potatoes for presentation to the motherland and to Belgium at the outbreak of the war, the task was placed in Mr. Daggett's hands and he entrusted the major portion of it to B. Frank Smith, afterwards, for a short time, minister of public works in the old administration. Mr. Smith, through a "pure misunderstanding" purchased a great many more potatoes than were required, but they were all accepted and paid for during Mr. Daggett's absence.

Shipped to Cuba

Later on, when Mr. Daggett returned and found a warehouseful of potatoes and no market in which to sell them, they were turned over to A. C. Smith & Co. for disposal. The latter firm shipped them to Cuba. While they were being shipped a few barrels were broken open by accident and they proved to be rotten. The inspector gave assurance that these were the only bad potatoes in the shipment and the goods went forward.

There was a delay in the arrival of the bills of lading for one of the shipments and, by the time delivery was taken the potatoes were bad, so bad that they had to be thrown away on a dump. Mr. Daggett verified these facts by a personal visit to Cuba later in the year, "not at the expense of the government," he explains. The result was a total loss on the entire Cuban shipments.

How it Was Worked

When this situation was laid before the secretary's chief, Hon. J. A. Murray, then minister of agriculture, the chief did not seem to have any suggestions to offer, so far as Mr. Daggett's evidence goes. So Mr. Daggett asked the late Premier Clarke to listen to his tale of woe. The latter proved sympathetic, but said the loss must be faced. On more mature consideration, he changed his mind and told Mr. Daggett that he feared that some persons might not understand and might think that the money had been stolen. In order to prevent such a suspicion, he suggested that the party should make up the amount. The witness agreed to do his part and statements were drawn up showing not the total loss that had resulted from the Cuban shipments, but showing what should have been received if it had been received. A note to cover the amount so arrived at was signed by A. C. Smith & Company and tendered to the deputy provincial treasurer in full settlement of the account. This note was paid by some one, but that was a chapter of the tale which Mr. Daggett left to another teller.

Mr. Daggett was the only witness heard yesterday by the commissioner who is holding court in the municipal chamber of the court house, and when adjournment was made in the evening, his evidence still was uncompleted. He will be heard again at a later date. The inquiry continues at 10.30 o'clock this morning.

When the court opened in the morning Mr. F. R. Taylor, K. C. who appeared for Ex-Premier Murray asked to have the enquiry stood over until October so that his client could attend to his duties as chairman of the Kings County Loan Committee. Mr. P. J. Hughes, government counsel opposed the application and the commissioner decided that the enquiry should go on.

Mr. Daggett's Testimony

Rev. J. B. Daggett of Marysville,

who was secretary for agriculture when the patriotic potato deal was pulled off was the first witness called and his testimony was not finished when court adjourned. As he had to attend a Baptist Convention at home he asked that his testimony be continued at some other time and Mr. Hughes consented.

In reply to Mr. Hughes the witness said that the purchase of the potatoes was entrusted to him. He bought at a flat rate then prevailing from several individuals, including B. F. Smith, the White Company of Sussex, B. C. McIsaac and others. Referring to the auditor general's report he gave the list as follows: R. F. Smith, White & Co., G. J. Hatfield, A. E. Rideout, L. Mersereau, Strong & Noddin, Geo. A. Fawcett, Hatfield & Scott, B. C. McIsaac, H. T. Douglas, D. J. Griffiths, Jones Brothers, W. Eveleigh.

The total from B. F. Smith was 31,685 barrels. There was no formal agreement with Mr. Smith. He was to buy at one dollar a barrel and receive ten cents a barrel for handling and sorting. This was confirmed by letter. Mr. Smith was to settle by drafts on the department, which were to be held until the potatoes were sorted. Leslie Shipp was appointed to inspect the potatoes and supervise them until shipped. He had power to and did reject some. Those rejected were sold on account of the shipp through A. C. Smith & Company. As a department they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?"

A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers."

Q.—"Were there any carload lots over which there was some discussion?"

A.—"Yes, one or two."

Q.—"No more than that?"

A.—"There may have been."

After consulting a letter produced by Mr. Hughes, witness said seven cars were held up.

The letter which was from A. C. Smith & Company was offered in evidence and referred to seven cars shipped by B. F. Smith & Company and rejected by the inspector.

The testimony of the witness in regard to the "surplus potatoes" and the Cuban transaction was as follows:

—This \$32,861.39 was the amount the government should have received. Was it handed over by A. C. Smith & Co.?"

A.—"Not that I know of. There were some things I did not know."

Q.—"Did they hand over anything?"

A.—"Yes."

Q.—"What?"

A.—"They gave a note for the amount due, after deducting the actual loss."

Q.—"It seems to have been a total loss?"

A.—"I should not be surprised if it was."

Q.—"Smith was your agent?"

A.—"The department's agent."

Q.—"They were not to blame for the loss?"

A.—"No."

Q.—"Then why did they give a note for this amount?"

The Inside Facts

A.—"I would like to answer that in my own way. When the transaction was closed up, I laid it before the minister of agriculture, Hon. Mr. Murray, and also the premier, Hon. Mr. Clarke with whom I had several conversations. Mr. Clarke's first idea was to show the loss, but later on, when I saw him on the train, he called me over and said that he thought it over and had changed his mind. He said he was sorry that the loss had occurred, as some people might not understand it and might say that the money had been stolen. He said 'I think we should make it up'."

Q.—"Who should make it up?"

A.—"I took it that he meant the party. I told the premier that if that was done, as I felt partly responsible I would be glad to contribute. He asked me if I thought that arrangements could be made to finance the amount and I said I thought it could be done. I told Hon. Mr. Murray about this conversation and later I saw H. C. Smith, of A. C. Smith & Co. I don't remember who made the suggestion first, but he gave me the note and I took it to the finance department."

(Continued on page 4.)

MATINEE 3 o'clock
except Saturday &
Holidays at 2.30.
EVENING 7.15 & 9

The Gem

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