
Notice to Advertisers.

In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a. m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

The Weather.

Fresh west and northwest winds, fair and cold tonight and on Tuesday.

VOL. XXIV., No. 306

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

London Press Comment On the British Elections

Times Says the Country Voted for Men Whose War Record was Above Reproach—Would be More Hopeful if the Premier's Majority was Smaller—Election Described as the Greatest Triumph for a Prime Minister in the History of Parliamentary Government.

London, Dec. 29.—Discussing the results of the general election, the Daily Mail says that Premier Lloyd George is now at the mercy of his old enemies. The question will be, will he cajole them, or they him?

The Daily Mail, referring to the progress of labor, says that the labor party's election bureau in Paris proved that the majority of the soldiers were for labor, but were anti-pacifist.

The Times says that the country voted for men whose war record was beyond reproach. It asks whether Premier Lloyd George will succeed in welding from his gigantic following a compact party, imbued with his own ideas of progress. It further says: "We should be more hopeful if the Premier's majority were smaller. The co-operation of labor is immediately necessary, and the Premier should make a supreme effort to secure it. It would be a real safeguard reaction."

Premier Given Unexampled Power to Carry Out the Task of Peace and Reconstruction

The Daily Telegraph says the election verdict is the most complete triumph for a prime minister in the history of parliamentary government. The average estimate of the coalition majority was half the actual result. Pacifism and defeatism received such a lesson as wrong-headed mischief-making never had before. One of the consequences of the overwhelming victory is to silence the talk about minority government. "Premier Lloyd George," the paper concludes, "will have unexampled power to carry out the tasks of peace and reconstruction. He has a unique opportunity. We are convinced that he will make the most of it."

Electors Return the Party Which Has Best Expressed a Love for British Institutions

The Daily Chronicle contends that the country was never more democratic, progressive and patriotic. It rallied to Premier Lloyd George as representing the patriots of the democracy, because it wants big things done. It will go with any party or section that stands between him and the execution of the people's mandate. The Chronicle thinks that the fact that the Premier's majority includes a Unionist majority need not disturb anybody because of his great personal strength.

The Morning Post says that the nation has decreed the political banishment of the two parties who have been unfaithful to the national cause, and it has returned by an overwhelming majority the party which best expressed the national love of solid British institutions.

A Big Vote Polled.

The votes polled in England and Wales were: Coalition—Unionists, 3,482,000; Liberals, 1,672,380; Laborites, 172,956. Non-Coalition—Liberals, 1,300,600; Laborites, 2,237,100; Unionists, 322,300; Independents, 469,700.

GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES TO WORK IN HARMONY

London, Dec. 30.—Premier Lloyd George, in receiving American newspaper correspondents at his residence at seven o'clock tonight, said that the conference with Pres. Wilson had brought about an agreement on general principles. The Premier said he felt convinced that matters which had been agreed upon between Great Britain and United States would prove of the greatest assistance in the work of the peace congress. Practically an understanding has already been reached between the Entente powers regarding the admission of the various nations to the peace conference itself, said the Premier. In his conferences in Paris with the Premiers of France and of Italy, President Wilson had become fully acquainted with their views, and he had now also acquired a knowledge of the British standpoint. "And," continued the Premier, "I feel assured that all these powers are in accord on the basic principles of the peace which will come before the conference. At any rate, it will be certain that the United States and Great Britain will be found working in complete harmony at the conference."

PRESIDENT AT MANCHESTER

Manchester, England, Dec. 29.—President and Mrs. Wilson were greeted on their arrival here at five o'clock this afternoon by thousands who filled

the streets to overflowing on the half mile journey from the station to the official residence of the Lord Mayor and by many more thousands who were packed together in the huge square in front of the town hall. The President and Mrs. Wilson then spent the evening quietly as the guests of the Lord Mayor. The President had no engagements and made no speeches.

S.S. CARMANIA AT HALIFAX WITH TROOPS

Halifax, Dec. 30.—H. M. Troopship Carmania, Capt. William Irvine, with 3,000 returning soldiers and 218 civilian passengers, docked at 9 o'clock this morning, after having spent the night at quarantine, where she was held up pending the disposal of a single case of spinal meningitis which had developed en route. The gangways were quickly put aboard and at 9.30 o'clock the actual work of disembarking the soldiers was begun. The men first handled were those for military districts, two, five, ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen, who will be rushed to Quebec by special trains for detention there.

The remainder will be handled by the Halifax clearing depot staff. The Schedule calls for cleaning up of the work late tonight, when the Carmania sails for New York. Lieut. Col. LePhrohon, of Montreal, who was in command of the returning troops, spoke highly of the treatment received by all, and the commander of the ship is very proud of a letter he has received from the colonel recording the men's appreciation of the efforts made by all officials of the Cunard line to make the voyage a pleasant one.

LLOYD GEORGE WINS WITH 400 MAJORITY

London, Dec. 29.—Complete returns for the election of the new parliament give the following results:

Coalition Unionists	334
Coalition Liberals	127
Coalition Laborites	10
Unionists	46
Asquithian Liberals	37
Laborites	65
National Party	2
Independents	5
Socialists	1
Sinn Feiners	72
Irish Nationalists	7

All Coalitionists, with the Unionists and National party, may be regarded roughly as supporting Lloyd George. The only opposition will be formed by the Asquithian Liberals, Laborites and Independents, barely more than 100 members in a house of 707, as the Sinn Feiners make it a rule not to come to Westminster on election.

When is a goat almost? Ans.—When he is all butt.
What happened to the hired girl who put gasoline in the range? Ans.—She hasn't benzine (been seen) since.

VICTORY OF COALITION GOVT. MORE SWEEPING THAN EXPECTED

Ex-Premier Asquith Among the Slain, and His Personal Following Greatly Reduced—Labor Party Comes Out Strong—Miss Christobel Pankhurst Defeated.

London, Dec. 29.—Premier Lloyd George and the Coalition Government won a more sweeping victory in the general election than had been expected. Not only was former Premier Asquith defeated, but his personal following from the House of Commons has been reduced to thirty-seven. It is believed that a new seat will be found for him by one of his followers resigning in his favor as soon as Parliament meets.

In the defeat of Reginald McKenna, Walter Runciman, Sir John Simon, Herbert Samuels, and Thomas McKinnon Wood, the front of the Opposition bench is deprived of all its principal occupants. There have been suggestions that Mr. Asquith might retire from politics as a result of his defeat, but this view is not encouraged by his personal friends. Should he retire however, he would probably be succeeded in the Liberal leadership by Mr. McKenna or Sir John Simon. **Labor Party Strong.**

While the Labor party, as a whole, has strengthened its numerical following in Parliament, some of its most prominent members have lost their seats. The most notable defeat was

MARYSVILLE FLU ABATING, VICTIMS RECOVERING

DEDICATION OF VESTRY OF OLIVET BAPTIST CH.

Bowling League Formed by Members of Dawson Club—Many Visitors in the Town.

Marysville Dec. 30.—Mrs. George Brogan and little daughter of St. John are visiting relatives here.

Miss Rose Stafford is visiting friends at St. John.

Postmaster J. S. Inch left this morning for St. John on a business trip.

Dedication services of the new vestry were held at the Olivet Baptist Church last evening. Special music was rendered, the Delong quartette of Fredericton being present.

Mrs. W. J. Kelly and daughter Margaret have returned from a visit to relatives at Durham.

Mr. Roy Collings and bride have returned from Moncton.

A very pleasant whist party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cain Friday evening. Light refreshments were served and a thoroughly enjoyable time spent by those present.

Mr. and Mrs. George Greer and child are visiting relatives at Nasonworth. Mr. P. Biddiscombe of St. John was a week-end visitor in town.

Mr. W. J. Grant who recently returned from overseas and has been visiting friends here left this morning for his home at St. John.

Flu Abating
The "flu" situation is showing signs of abatement. Very few cases have developed and those who have been ill with the disease are recovering.

Miss Jennie McConnell is visiting relatives at St. John.

A bowling league will shortly be formed by members of the Dawson Club. This league will consist of six or eight teams which will compete in a series of games during the winter.

Mr. Bernard Stafford and family have removed to the house recently vacated by Mr. Herman Robinson and family.

Miss Pearl Steeves has returned from Fredericton where she has been nursing for some weeks.

Mr. J. E. Wade and son Frank are both confined to their home with the prevailing epidemic.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lyons are recovering from their recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thomas have returned from a holiday trip to Boston.

THE POTATO ENQUIRY BROUGHT TO A CLOSE AT ST. JOHN SATURDAY

Remarkable Evidence by Ex-Attorney General Baxter—He Contradicts Statements Made by Tennant and Takes a Fall Out of Daggett—Mr. P. J. Hughes, in Summing Up for the Government, Indulges in Some Pretty Plain Talk—Perjury is Alleged.

St. John, Dec. 30.—With some remarkable evidence from Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, and summing up by counsel, the potato inquiry was brought to an end on Saturday afternoon before Commissioner McQueen. He will make his report to the government in the near future.

The final session was a somewhat dramatic one, Mr. Baxter's testimony being of a surprising quality, and Mr. Hughes in his summing up accused several witnesses of offences under the criminal code, and citing evidence in support of his contention. Mr. Hughes, in masterly fashion, went over the whole story, from the sale of the Valley Railway contract down to the abortive attempts to cover up the potato loss by dumping in the railway money and falsifying the public records. He dealt very strongly with Hon. Mr. Murray, George B. Jones, Hon. Mr. Baxter, B. F. Smith, W. B. Tennant and A. Colby Smith, referring to the evidence and submitting that it supported his interpretation of their actions.

Mr. Powell, who followed Mr. Hughes, spoke at length in defence of Hon. J. A. Murray, saying he had come through the inquiry unscathed. Mr. Powell also defended Mr. Baxter, B. F. Smith and the late Premier Clarke. He said there had been bad business and foolish concealment, but no profit to members of the government and no loss to the province.

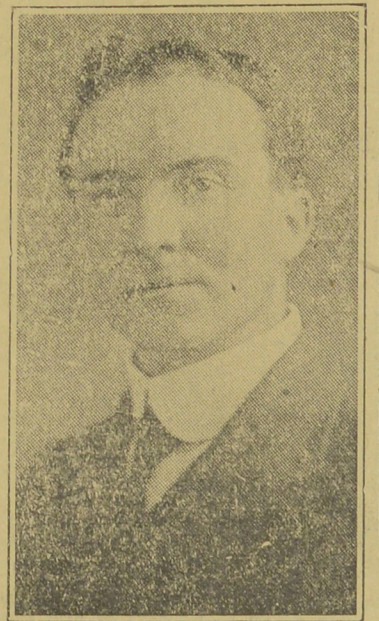
Mr. Baxter testified at some length. He swore he gave Tennant \$40,000 and had got back only half of it. He said he didn't know until later on just what Tennant wanted it for—that Tennant did not tell him it was to set the stage for his testimony in the Stevens inquiry, to cover up the diversion of \$61,500 for political funds and the potato loss.

Mr. Hughes' Address.

Mr. Hughes addressed the commissioner first.

Although many days were spent on the inquiry, he believed it was justified. As is usual in such inquiries, records in some cases are missing, in others falsified. Witnesses are adverse, but despite these things the story in this case was quite complete.

By order-in-council passed on September 2, 1914, it was decided to contribute 100,000 bushels of potatoes to the Imperial Government. The carrying out of the order was entrusted to Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture.



MR. P. J. HUGHES,
Who ably represented the Government as counsel at the Potato Enquiry.

culture. This was the first work of any importance that fell to him, and it would be expected that he would take pains to do it well, especially in view of the fact that the government was lying under the cloud of the Dugal inquiry.

An order provided \$75,000 for the purpose, and it would have been sufficient if proper care had been taken. It meant 40,000 barrels only, and the

market price was much less than \$1 per barrel that year. In fact, the government was offered them for less than \$1. In some places loyal people wished to give potatoes, but the offers were refused and it was agreed to pay \$1.10 to Mr. Daggett's friends in Carleton county.

Mr. Daggett gave one car to this man, five to that man and 35 cars to "his especial friend, B. F. Smith." About September 10, Guy Porter offered to supply potatoes at cost plus five per cent commission. The offer was refused and he was told the potatoes were ordered, all but ten cars. He immediately offered to supply the ten cars without commission. This was refused, and the order went to another. Two days later Mr. Daggett gave Mr. Smith an unlimited order, under which he sent in the next fortnight an additional 125 carloads of potatoes, making 160 carloads from Mr. Smith.

The Case Itself.

"In these 125 cars, Mr. Daggett's troubles began. Daggett says he has sweat blood over it since. He has done more than that; he has succeeded in getting his chief, Mr. Murray, guilty of participating in falsifying the public records in order to cover up the transaction and of handing down lying answers to questions put in the legislative assembly. He has Geo. B. Jones, M. P. P. becoming a party to misapplication of the funds of the Valley Railway to meet the shortage, and swearing falsely before a royal commission to try to hide the truth; he has his friend Mr. Baxter putting up \$3,000, in order to enable Mr. Daggett to silence complaints coming from Cuba concerning the shipment of potatoes there, and of Mr. Baxter putting up an additional amount to enable Mr. Tennant to prove that no funds coming from the Valley Railway were used for potato purposes, and to enable him to cover up the fraud—and all this because Mr. Daggett, as secretary of agriculture, took upon himself the right to give a letter of credit to B. F. Smith by which he was enabled to buy all the potatoes that were offered and pay

(Continued on Page 5)