

THE DAILY MAIL

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1918.

THE FRIEL REPORT.

The report of Commissioner James Friel on the charges preferred by Mr. J. B. M. Baxter, M.P.P., from his place in the House against Hon. Wm. Currie, Speaker of the Legislature, is an able and interesting document. It shows that Mr. Friel gave close attention to the case and based his findings on the evidence taken by him under oath. The commissioner practically rejects the testimony of Mr. Baxter's star witness, one Archibald Murchie, a former lumber scaler, as being unworthy of belief, and declares that "it is not so that Mr. Currie caused the stumpage to be paid by the said Continental Lumber Company upon the said reduced amount, well knowing that it was not the full and proper amount of stumpage, and therefore defrauded the province of a portion of its revenue." The commissioner further finds "that the charges were unfounded and that they are absolutely disproved, and that the Hon. Mr. Currie is innocent of the things that Murchie swore against him."

While the commissioner exonerates Hon. Mr. Currie from the charge of conspiring with Murchie to defraud the province, he points out that the Continental Lumber Company did not pay stumpage on the full amount of its cut, and regrets that Hon. Mr. Currie, who had knowledge of the matter, did not "screw up his courage to the point of bucking the system."

In discussing this phase of the case the commissioner says:

"Mr. LeBlanc says it was not the fault of the man so much; it was the fault of the system. That may mitigate public opinion, but it is no defence. It is no excuse that all the lumbermen are doing it. It is quite true that the scaler's return and other evidence show that Mr. Currie's political opponent, the member whom he defeated, actually a member of the government, got the advantage of a reduction in his scale by the same dishonest scaler, and paid the reduced and fraudulent stumpage bill with his check; in fact did the very same thing that Mr. Currie has been accused of doing."

The commissioner pays his respects to Scaler Murchie in this blunt fashion:

"Murchie is lying. I do not believe he or his counter ever went into the woods to scale and count, or that either of them ever made any scale or count, or that Murchie ever kept any books, or that either of them ever had anything to go by, except what they could pick up here and there, knowing some of the operators, and guessing quantities to suit themselves."

A little further on the commissioner says:

"My opinion is that he (Murchie) went to the Hon. Mr. Currie to find out if he was going to get by with the report he had put in and make the \$500 or whatever graft he expected to make that season, his last chance. If that was his object in seeing Mr. Currie, he attained it, for he came out of the interview with the assurance from what Mr. Currie said and what he did not say, that there was not likely to be any interference with his settlement with Mr. Richards, and if there was not to be any interference with that settlement it was most unlikely that there would be with any other settlements he had made. Whatever he went there for, the things he charges against Mr. Currie did not take place. I accept Hon. Mr. Currie's version of the conversation between him and Murchie on that occasion as substantially correct, and the truth. I find that Murchie had already told Mr. Richards that four and a half millions would be all right for their cut and that Mr. Currie knew it when Murchie and he were talking."

The commissioner's report and the evidence on which it is based furnish a pretty good insight into the methods employed by the old government in handling the public domain. Murchie was appointed to office soon after the Hazen government came into power in 1908, being one of a number of rabid Tory henchmen appointed to important positions by the old govern-

ment, not because of any special qualifications for the work in hand, but because they were believed to be fit and proper persons to do crooked work for "the party." Murchie's official career seems to have been dishonest from the start. He swore that he did not consider his oath binding after the first year and he seems to have done his best to live up to that belief. On one occasion he grafted \$100 from a lumbering concern and the item was charged up on his account for "moose meat." Another witness quoted Murchie as saying that it was his last year in office and he was out to make \$500, while another reported him as saying that he intended to "get Currie." The government of which this man was an appointee apparently was well satisfied with the service he was performing, and he would be holding down his job today had not an outraged people bowled the outfit from office in February, 1917. The "system" of which Murchie was so clever an exponent, went by the board at the same time, and under the new administration the Crown Lands are being administered on business principles, and lumber operators big and little are now required to make oath to the amount of their cut and pay full stumpage on same. The politicians who pulled off and condoned the famous timber land steal of 1913 are quite welcome to any comfort they can derive from the report of Commissioner Friel.

The present Provincial Government handled a seed grain proposition this year involving an expenditure of \$160,000, and made a loss of \$106. The old government in 1914 undertook to buy 100,000 bushels of potatoes to present to the mother country and made such a mess of the transaction that the cost exceeded the estimate by \$60,000, and besides this there was a dead loss of \$32,000 which "the party" had to make good. At the time this happened the province was supposed to be getting "a business like administration" of its affairs.

Finding their armies harrassed on all fronts, the new German Chancellor, Prince Maximilian, has asked President Wilson to use his good offices in an effort to bring about peace. It has all the earmarks of a Hun trick to gain time and will be so treated by the Allies. If the Huns are in earnest in their demand for peace, they can get it only by an unconditional surrender.

YANKEE BOYS ARE FLUSHED WITH VICTORY

London, Oct. 7.—American troops are among the wounded who are arriving in large numbers at a southern English port every day. They are flushed with victory and jubilantly declare "the al-lies have Fritz beaten to a frazzle."

Wounded German prisoners, on the other hand, are most despondent. They admit the end is not far off, and say it is impossible for Germany to hold much longer. The larger per centage of the Germans are bearded landstrum troops, with a sprinkling of boys in their teens.

Completed Long Motor Trip

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Lee and party consisting of Mrs. E. M. Mullin and Mrs. A. B. Kitchen arrived home yesterday from their coast-to-coast motor trip. The party left here July 1st and were a little over three months on their trip covering about 12,500 miles in all. The first point in view after leaving here was Chicago which they reached after passing through Boston, Albany, Cleveland and New York. They then started for San Francisco going to Los Angeles and Pasadena and then up the coast to New Westminster in British Columbia. Mr. Lee states that Spanish Influenza is prevalent in the eastern and central part of the United States. Boston is the central point. The first point at which they struck the epidemic was Camp Perry in Wisconsin where 65,000 soldiers were stationed. Nine deaths had occurred on the day the party passed through there. The party returning came by Boston and passed through Lawrence in Massachusetts where many sad sights were seen. Mr. Lee said people were dying from want of proper care and hundreds were perishing every day from the disease.

Succumbed to Influenza

Miss Vesta Brewer daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Whitman Brewer of Devon who was seriously ill with Spanish Influenza and pneumonia in Providence, R. I., succumbed to the disease yesterday. She was in her twenty-third year. The body will arrive tomorrow by C. P. R. the funeral taking place on the arrival of the train. The deceased is survived by her parents, two brothers and one sister. The brothers are Alfred and Gordon at home and Mrs. Hamilton of Devon. A short service was held this afternoon at Victoria Hospital. Rev. M. Addison will conduct the service tomorrow. Interment will be made at the Rural Cemetery.

TOWN POLITICS AT MARYSVILLE INTERESTING

RESIGNATION OF TOWN MARSHAL CONSIDERED

Councillors Wish Official to Stay in Office—Liquor Inspector Busy at Chipman.

Marysville, Oct. 7.—The ratepayers of the town are looking forward with much interest to the special meeting of the Town Council which has been called for this evening. The most important matter which will be considered at this meeting will be the resignation of the Town Marshal which several members of the board are unwilling to accept, being desirous that the marshal should continue in his present capacity at least for the remainder of the fiscal year. Very interesting developments are looked for.

A horse attached to a delivery wagon, the outfit owned by Messrs R. Manzer & Son went over a steep embankment on Friday last resulting in serious injuries to the horse and the destruction of the wagon. Dr. McCoy was summoned to attend to the injuries of the animal which received very serious lacerations.

C. A. Pincombe of Connors, was a visitor in town for the week-end.

Sub-Inspector Fraser Saunders has returned from Chipman where he was engaged in his duties under the Prohibition Act. On Saturday last four cases were tried at Chipman and resulted in convictions being entered in each and four fines of fifty dollars and costs imposed.

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

Clair Downing has recovered from an attack of rheumatism.

FOUR LOCAL MEN IN CASUALTIES

(Continued from Page 8)

where he was declared medically unfit. He was sent to hospital where he stayed all winter. When he came out of hospital he was not allowed to fly but spent his time in acquiring a good knowledge of the practice. When last heard from he had but a few hours to fill in before he gained his pilot's certificate. He has one brother Capt. Allan Good who is in command of No. 9 Trench Mortar Battery attached to the Brigade Staff.

Private Alfred Smith

Word was received by Mrs. Emma Smith this morning that Private Alfred Smith was admitted to East General Hospital at Cambridge, on October 1st, suffering from gunshot wounds in the left leg. Private Smith enlisted at Halifax some time ago and was serving in the infantry when wounded. Mrs. Smith has made a splendid sacrifice for her country. One son Archibald was killed, Charles was drowned at Petewawa, Allan was wounded a short time ago and still another Alonzo has returned having lost an eye.

Private Gerald Keith

Mrs. Maude Keith received word yesterday that her son Private Gerald Bruce Keith was admitted to the Brook War Hospital at Woolwich, England on September 29th, suffering from gunshot wounds in the right thigh. Private Keith enlisted at seventeen and left here with the 236th Battalion but on reaching England he volunteered to go with reinforcements for a Canadian Highland Battalion.



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PLUMBERS AND HEATERS
 WHOLESALE

THE HARDWARE PEOPLE
 RETAIL

VICTORY LOAN, 1918

MEETINGS in the interests of the Victory Loan Campaign have been arranged as follows:

At Stanley, Fair, Oct. 8th—

Speakers—

Very Rev. Dean Neales.
 R. B. Hanson, Esq.
 C. D. Richards, Esq.

At Kingsclear, Temperance Hall, Oct. 9th—

Speakers—

Dr. Crockett, M. L. A.
 Chancellor Jones

At Millville, Oct. 9th—

Speakers—

Col. McLeod, M. P.
 Rev. G. C. Warren.

At Harvey Station, Public Hall Oct. 10th—

Speakers—

Judge Wilson, R. B. Hanson, Esq.

At New Maryland (Nasonworth), Oct. 10th—

Speakers—

J. Bacon Dickson, Esq.
 Prof. Stiles, Rev. Mr. Lewis.

At Marysville, Oct. 11th—

Speakers—

The Bishop, Hon. O. S. Crockett.

At Pokio, Public Hall, Oct. 11

Speakers—

R. W. McLellan, Esq.
 C. D. Richards, Esq.

At Burt's Corner, Foresters' Hall, Oct. 12th—

Speakers—

Hon. J. H. Barry,
 J. J. F. Winslow, Esq.
 Other Meetings will be announced later.

NOTICE TO WATER CONSUMERS.

The City Water Mains will be flushed Monday, commencing at 8 a.m.

The consumers will please supply themselves with water for their needs before that time.

G. N. EDNEY,
 Supt. Water Dept.

Conservation Recipes

The Women's Food Conservation Committee of Fredericton has issued an attractive book of "Conservation Recipes," which every house wife should have.

The book contains 35 pages and about 160 recipes, besides some very valuable and useful information.

The books will be offered for sale throughout the Province.

In Fredericton the stores of Jas. S. Neill, C. W. Hall and McMurray & Co. have them for sale.

Only 25c each.

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