

COOL WEATHER ITEMS

Now that the chilly nights are here, you will have to think of Shaker Blankets, an extra Comforter, or a pair of Woollen Blankets.

We have "IBEX" best quality Shaker Blankets in two sizes, 11-4 and 12-4, White or Grey.

Comforters in Fancy Cotton, Art Sateen and Art Muslin coverings, Russian Down and Feather filled, sizes 60x72 and 66x72, from \$3.00 to \$18.50.

Woollen Blankets are now higher priced, but we have a few at old prices from \$5.50 to \$10.25.

In our Ready-to-Wear Dept. we have just received a small shipment of Children's Coats at \$8.25 to \$10.25.

Ladies' Coats in great variety of Cloths and Colors, from \$16.50 to \$75.00.

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Underwear, Hosiery, Gloves, etc.

These necessary garments were purchased in quantities before the great rise in prices. Make your selection early.

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WOOL HOSE, sizes 5 to 10, prices ranging from 25c. to \$1.50 pair.

RIBBED CASHMERE HOSE, sizes 4 to 8½, many colors, prices 50c. to \$1.00 pair.

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GLOVES, for Ladies and Children, in Kid, Wool, Chamoisette, Cashmere, etc., at popular prices.

BUY YOUR UNDERWEAR EARLY!

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ONIONS

Large, smooth, sound Onions, good for pickling or putting away for winter use. 6 lbs. 25c. \$2.25 for 75 lb. bag.

Flour

BEST BREAD FLOUR—

16 lbs. \$1.00

98 lb. bag \$6.15

Barrels \$12.25

24½ lb. bags \$1.70

We have Corn Flour, Rye Flour, Rolled Oats, Cornmeal, which Food Law requires to be bought with Wheat Flour.

TEA

Use "Blue Banner" Tea—the same good quality—60c. lb., 3 lbs. \$1.75.

STOVE POLISH

Rising Sun—same low price—9c., 3 Cakes 25c.

CHEESE

Very Best Quality.

30c. lb.

COFFEE

Try our "Blue Banner" Coffee. Fresh ground while you wait. 41c. lb., 3 lbs. \$1.17.

RAISINS

Best Seeded Raisins

14c. pkg.

BISCUIT

Nice mixed Cakes—18½c. lb. by box, 20c. by single lb.

A few more Preserving Jars left. Same low prices while they last.

Don't forget our low prices on Patent Medicines, Pills and Liniment.

Gerrard's

Branch Stores Woodstock and St. John

STATEMENTS OF MURCHIE CHARACTERIZED AS FALSE

Report of Commissioner Friel on the Currie Charges is Submitted to the Government --- Speaker Currie is Found Not Guilty of the Charges --- The System of Handling Crown Lands is Not All it Should be

The report of James Friel, of Moncton, who was appointed by the Foster government to investigate certain charges made against Hon. William Currie, of Restigouche and speaker of the legislature, in connection with the operations of his lumber company, was given out yesterday for publication. The commissioner finds Hon. Mr. Currie innocent of the charges made against him but censures him for remaining silent when he knew that the stumpage amount paid to the province was less than the cut warranted. The charges and the finding and recommendations are as follows:

The Commissioner after reciting the charges and reviewing the evidence at some length submits the following finding:

Says Murchie Lied

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. Murchie made a return December 4, 1916, when he asked the department to send him \$300 on account. He calls this report "returns for all logs cut in my district up to December 1, 1916." In it he mentions seventeen operators only for the Continental Lumber Company with sixty-three thousand and fifty pieces yarded, twelve thousand six hundred hauled to the stream, six thousand three hundred pieces scaled averages per piece, one operator thirty five feet, two operators thirty-eight feet and three operators forty feet. In Murchie's letter to the department of March 8, 1917, he speaks of his estimate mailed February 5, which was not received by the Crown Land office. This I think is the report he made at the time he settled with Mr. Richards and probably also with the Culligan and Louison Lumber Company. He has dated it February 5, 1917, but most likely withheld it until after the elections which came right on. On March 8, 1917, he sent in a report in which the Continental Lumber Company is set down for a cut of one hundred thirty-eight thousand, four hundred and fifty logs, five million one hundred and sixteen thousand feet. His political friends were out of power and a new regime had come in. It was now to be honest government, efficient administration of all departments, business management and that sort of thing and he probably began to wonder what would be done about his report and pretended scale. It was then he went or was sent to the Hon. Mr. Currie. He did not go to compare his scale with that of the Continental people. He did not have any scale and he certainly never expected them to show him their scale. He does not even say that he asked to see it. He did not go there to try and hold his

position. He did not expect to hold it, he was already saying that it was his last year. My opinion is that he 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 difference with his settlement with Mr. Richards, and if here was not to be any difference with that settlement it was most unlikely that there would be with any other settlements he had made.

His Statements Not True

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.

Mr. Currie never suggested to Murchie not to make his report on their lumber too high, or to keep it as low as possible or not to make it more than four and a half millions. He never stated to Murchie that he would look after him so that the government would not make trouble for him, or anything of the kind. He held out no inducement or encouragement to Murchie. Murchie did not ask for any and I do not think he expects any. Murchie did not reduce the statement of lumber scaled by him in consequence of any conversation with Mr. Currie. I have already stated that he did not scale any lumber, but if that is too technical I find that there was no conversation between him and Mr. Currie about his reducing his scale, or whatever it was, in any way whatever. Mr. Currie never suggested to him that he omit the names of any operators from his statement.

Murchie's report to the department were faked up by him. That seems to be the usual thing to do. He is short from 21,000 to 37,000 in the number of logs and from 2,800,000 to 3,500,000 in the quantity. He omitted thirteen operators out of thirty-two. The counter, McKay, had about 70,000 logs more than Murchie and 44,562 more than the actual number. He had evidently not stopped to add up the guesses. Murchie's pretended correct scale in the affidavit was made up for the purpose of the affidavit and made up carelessly. He has included one man's cut at 328,000 who had no cut at all. He included another man's cut at 92,000 where the cut was on granted lands, and he still omits nine operators. He is short about one and a half millions in the quantity. Yet he swore in the affidavit and in the investigation that this was the correct scale. These charges were fabricated by Murchie. I have nothing before me to show with what assistance. Politics in Restigouche, the same as in other counties in this province, are a hard game and it is not unlikely that in fabricating these charges Murchie had the assistance of gentlemen who for years have been doing or permitting and condoning precisely the same things that have been charged against Mr. Currie. It is only fair to Hon. Mr. Baxter to say in respect to the matters which Murchie swore to in his affidavit he was imposed on, or it may be that he allowed his personal antipathy to Mr. Currie, especially in his position as speaker, shade his good judgment. I would have liked to see him throw Murchie and his affidavit overboard before we got to the end of the inquiry.

I find therefore that the charges were unfounded and that they are absolutely disproved and that Honorable Mr. Currie is innocent of the things that Murchie swore against him.

The Province Defrauded

After further reviewing the evidence the Commissioner says:

I would be pleased indeed if, having made my finding on the charges I could feel that the business of this commission ended, but in reporting the evidence taken, as I am required to do, there is something further to

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Men's and Boys' Caps for
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James Monteith

St. Mary's Street - - - - North Devon.
Across the river from Fredericton.

be said and that is simply this, that no matter how it was done the province was defrauded out of a substantial sum in the stumpage of this company, of which Hon. Mr. Currie was the manager and that he was in a position to have prevented it, and that

(Continued on page 4.)