

THE DAILY MAIL

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1918

PATRIOTIC POTATOES.

The action of the Provincial Government in appointing a royal commission to thoroughly investigate the notorious patriotic potatoes transaction of the former administration will meet with the hearty endorsement of people of all classes who want to see public affairs conducted with some degree of honesty. It will be remembered that early in the year 1915 information came into the possession of the then opposition which indicated that there had been no end of crooked work in connection with the purchase and disposal of a large quantity of potatoes intended as a gift to the Belgian people; but the government of that day, for obvious reasons, refused to hold an enquiry. Information which has since been brought to light goes to show that the transaction was far worse than at first supposed, and Premier Foster and his colleagues would be remiss in their duty if they did not take steps to lay all the facts bare before the public and punish those responsible for the outrage which has been perpetrated upon the province.

It was soon after the outbreak of the war that the Clarke government conceived the idea of purchasing 10,000 bushels of potatoes and donating them as a free gift to "the starving people of Belgium." Potatoes were a bumper crop that year, and it was estimated that they could be purchased for 30 and 40 cents a bushel. It was felt by the government that \$75,000 would defray all the expense of purchase and shipment, and that amount was appropriated by an order-in-council. A horde of Tory politicians and agents were set to work buying the potatoes, and as a result of their activities the \$75,000 soon resembled the proverbial thirty cents, and within a very short time an SOS call was sent in for more funds. An order-in-council was passed appropriating another \$75,000, nearly all of which was frittered away before the transaction was closed out.

The government agents bought more potatoes than could be sent to the Belgians, and it was supposed that the surplus was shipped to Cuba in the spring of 1915 by A. C. Smith & Co., of St. John. At any rate, in the fall of 1915 that concern owed the province \$32,280, and the books, which should have closed on November 10th, were held open until nearly Christmas to allow the firm to make a settlement. They gave a four months' note for the \$32,800, which was discounted by the Deputy Provincial Treasurer and entered on the books as a cash payment. Before the note matured, the firm failed in business and the note was left unpaid. Just about the time the Legislature was to meet in 1916, some Tory philanthropist in Moncton came across with the sum of \$32,800 and the money was deposited to the credit of the province and the Smith note retired.

The Auditor General's report for 1915 contained a statement which purported to show how the surplus potatoes had been disposed of. It was alleged that they were consigned to merchants in Cuba and also to Mr. J. C. Manzer, the New Brunswick representative in that country. In May last Premier Foster wrote to Mr. Manzer for information concerning the transaction and received the following remarkable reply:

Havana, June 12, 1918. Hon. W. E. Foster, Fredericton, N. B., Canada. Dear Sir,—I have your letter of May 7, 1918, enclosing statement by A. C. Smith & Co., of potatoes sold to different firms in Cuba. I have written these firms and have received replies from most of the dealers mentioned in Havana and Caibarien, and they all state, as I do, that they did not receive any potatoes from A. C. Smith & Co. during the year 1915. Enclosed you will find copies with translation of the letters I wrote to these firms, together with some of the replies, with translation of same. This, to my mind, is a very peculiar circumstance. We sometimes hear of sales being made that are not accounted for, but it is very unusual for a firm to hand in returns for goods sold when it cannot be shown that the goods have been sold. Yours very truly, (Sgd.) J. C. Manzer. It is quite evident from the facts in possession of the government, that

somebody made a steal of \$32,800 in connection with the patriotic potato transaction, and there is a suspicion that the money used to make good the loss also came from funds belonging to the people. With these facts in its possession, the government would have been neglectful of its duty had it not taken measures to provide for a thorough enquiry into the whole miserable transaction.

Austria-Hungary, in calling upon the Allied powers for a peace conference, no doubt voices the sentiments of all the Teutonic people, especially the Germans. The pressure on the Huns during the past two months has been heavy and it is not a matter for surprise that they are beginning to squeal. They will have to squeal a good deal louder before any attention is paid to their peace talk.

Mr. Eugene Debs, Socialist leader, convicted of a violation of the Espionage Act, was sentenced at Cleveland on Saturday to ten years in the penitentiary. A motion for a new trial was overruled, but an exception on behalf of the accused was allowed.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Now the Allied armies are capturing historic cities in bunches.

Germany hopes that the cleats on the Hindenburg line will hold.

Why is it that a man always gives better advice than he gets?

The best that can be done with really good advice is to keep it for one's own use.

Wouldn't it be glorious to be able to say once more, "Is this hot enough for you?"

In a year or two after the war Spain may become almost peevish with Germany.

Charlie Chaplin is engaged to be married. She thinks his stunts are funny now—but wait.

British and French reports on captured towns these days read like so many personally conducted sight-seeing tours.

There are compensations in everything. If your sugar ration is exhausted the flies will soon find it out and go to pester your more frugal neighbors.

Somehow it is difficult to make a hit with the man who has been at his desk all summer by telling him about the good time you had on your vacation.

UNITED SERVICES AT MARYSVILLE YESTERDAY

Marysville, Sept. 16—Rev. J. B. Daggett, pastor of the Main Street Baptist Church occupied the pulpit at the Methodist Church at a united service of the two churches yesterday morning, and at a like service at the Main Street Baptist Church in the evening. At the service yesterday morning Miss Edith Staples and Mr. J. McP. Peterson rendered a very pleasing duet. Rev. Mr. Daggett preached at Penniac yesterday afternoon at the Methodist Church.

Mr. Fraser Saunders left this morning for Minto for duty in connection with the enforcement of the Prohibition Act.

At the Police Court here Saturday morning Magistrate Clayton imposed a fine of \$15.00 on one of the young men arrested Friday afternoon charged with drunkenness and resisting the police and the other young man was allowed his freedom with a reprimand.

Master John Osborne son of Mr. and Mrs. John Osborne had the misfortune to fall from a load of wood and sustained a broken arm, Saturday evening. Medical aid was summoned and the youngster is now resting quite comfortably.

Miss Alice Harrison left this morning on a visit to Moncton.

Mr. J. W. Everett returned to Minto this morning after spending the week end at his home here.

Miss Grace Preece left this morning for Newcastle to spend her vacation.

It is rumored that a young lady of the town, the daughter of a prominent citizen is soon to be one of the principals in a happy event, the prospective groom being a resident of St. John, and a returned soldier.

Rummage Sale The Ashburnham Branch of the Red Cross Society propose holding a rummage sale in this city on October 4th and 5th. In the meantime donations of articles for the sale will be thankfully received by Mrs. W. T. Whitehead (down town) and Mrs. A. E. Kilburn (up town).

LOCAL NEWS

St. John Car Party A car party from St. John arrived in the city Saturday and registered at the Barker House. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Regan, the Misses Alice and Evelyn O'Regan, and Mr. J. McGrath. They returned this morning to St. John.

Auto Struck Bruin A report comes from Kent County that two men while motoring near Richibucto a few days ago ran over a bear on the road. The bear started to cross in front of the car and was knocked down and run over. The driver of the car was so scared that he did not stop to see the extent of the damage to the bear, but is inclined to think that the animal pulled through all right.

Deafened in Air Raid Private Charles Steward who is an inmate of the Convalescent Home in this city was joined here Friday night by his wife and four children, two sons and two daughters, who recently landed at New York after a fast trip from England. Mrs. Steward was deafened in an air raid in the Old Country and has not recovered her hearing. One of the daughters was engaged at Woolwich arsenal in making munitions. She hopes to take up similar work here. Private Steward went overseas in the 12th Battalion. Prior to enlisting he lived with his family in St. John.

Navy League Drive The drive by the Navy League on behalf of the sailors of the Royal and Mercantile Marine and their dependents, in Fredericton last week produced a total of \$1,407.87 which with outstanding subscriptions is expected to be increased to \$1,500. The various amounts were Queen's Ward, Dr. C. C. Jones and A. A. Shute, \$338.28; Carleton Ward, Ald. T. S. Wilkinson and Col. T. G. Loggie, \$484.75; St. Anne's Ward, R. B. Wallace and T. W. Sanson, \$276; Wellington and King's Wards, F. W. Porter, \$142; Victor Hatheway Chapter I. O. D. E. tag day collection organized by Miss Mary Adams \$166.87.

Sent Up to Higher Court The case of Joseph Ellick, the returned soldier who assaulted William Merchant of Nashwaaksis came up for trial this morning. The evidence of Merchant and Dr. Wainwright was heard this morning and the case adjourned till this afternoon. It seems that Merchant had seen Ellick's pigs rooting up his garden and had complained to him and asked him to keep them in his own yard whereupon Ellick swore at him and assaulted him with a rock. Merchant was struck several times but succeeded in knocking Ellick down and regaining his house. The case was concluded this afternoon when Magistrate Limerick after reviewing the evidence sent Ellick up to appear before the Circuit Court on Tuesday September 24th.

Will Wed at Hamilton, Ont. Mr. P. Hughes, Secretary of the Provincial Department of Public Works will leave tomorrow evening for Hamilton, Ontario, where he will be married this week to Miss Hazel Dunn, of this city. After the marriage ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes will visit various points of interest in the Upper Canadian provinces during their honeymoon. They expect to return during the first week in October to this city, where they will reside. On the recommendation of Hon. P. J. Veniot, Mr. E. J. Cormier has been appointed by Order-in-Council as Acting Secretary of the Department during Mr. Hughes' absence. On Saturday the latter was tendered the usual congratulations and good wishes accompanied by a handsome easy chair by the office staff as a token of their esteem. The recipient thanked the staff in a happy manner for their kind wishes and valuable gift in very appropriate and well chosen words.

Mr. C. O. Foss of St. John is at the Suen. Mr. W. W. Dalling of Woodstock is in the city.



I'LL TAKE POSTUM! — you hear it more and more when one is asked what he'll have for his morning drink. Delightful aroma and taste, and freedom from the discomforts that go with tea and coffee. Nourishing healthful, economical. No WASTE at all — an important item these days. Give INSTANT POSTUM a trial.

Linen Handkerchiefs Are Going To Be Higher.

We have still a good assortment of prices. 1-2 doz. pure linen hdkfs. . . 88c. 1-2 doz. pure linen hdkfs. . . \$1.10 1-2 doz. pure linen hakfs. . . \$1.38 1-2 doz. pure linen hdkfs. . . \$1.65 Pure linen hdkf centres 12c

Our pure linen embroidered hdkfs (white or colored embroidery) at 35c each, is the best value to-day.

John J. Weddall & Son

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MEND ALL LEAKS INSTANTLY

In Tin, Copper, Brass, Sheet Iron, all Cooking Utensils and Rubber Goods, without the use of Heat, Solder, Cement or Rivet. Simply Tighten Mendet and leak is mended.

Assorted sizes and wrench in each Package. Packages Two Popular Sizes 10 and 25 cents.

R. Chestnut & Sons

PLUMBERS AND HEATERS THE HARDWARE PEOPLE WHOLESALE RETAIL

Forty Hours' Devotion

The Forty Hours' Devotion as announced opened at St. Anthony's Church with High Mass yesterday at eleven o'clock and owing to the very favorable weather and road conditions there was not a vacant seat in the spacious church. Rev. Father Murphy the pastor made the usual announcements read the Epistle and the Gospel for the Sunday and in a few words exhorted the people of the congregation to take advantage of this special season of grace. It was noticed that many people young and old made frequent visits to the church to pray in silence; and Vespers beginning at 7.30 followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament closed the service for the day. Confessions will be heard this afternoon from four till six o'clock and in the evening from eight till ten. Tomorrow Mass will be at six o'clock and a High Mass at ten o'clock. In the evening devotions will begin at a quarter to eight in the following order: The chanting of the Litany of the Saints, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the church preceded by the school children, altar boys, pastor and visiting priests; and all will finish with a sermon of the occasion by Rev. Father O'Brien of Norton.

Montreal Soloist

Some excellent solos were rendered at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church yesterday by Mr. Desbarats of Montreal. Mr. Desbarats, who is a popular tenor soloist in a Montreal church sang at both the morning and evening services. On Sunday evening the pulpit was occupied by Mr. C. Y. Lewis of New Maryland, in the absence of Rev. J. S. Sutherland.

BURTT & CATERER

Wagons and Sleds Made and Repaired. T. J. BURTT. H. CATERER All Kinds of Jobbing Repairs. 281 KING STREET

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.

The St. John & Quebec Railway Co.

NOTICE.—Tenders will be received up to noon Friday, the 13th day of September, for the construction of a Water Station at Brundage Brook, Mile 52, South of Fredericton. Form of tender, plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the Chief Engineer at St. John, or at the office of the Divisional Engineer at Oak Point.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque for \$100.00, payable to the order of the St. John & Quebec Railway Company. The Company does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

THE SAINT JOHN & QUEBEC RAILWAY CO., E. S. CARTER, Secretary. Dated at St. John this 5th day of September, 1918.

Mr. T. Conway of Montreal was registered at the Queen yesterday. Mr. W. E. Trites of Minto is registered at the Barker House.