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"FUL-O-PEP" LAYING MASH

And increase the production of Eggs when the price is high. Several of the henneries in this city are using this mash and getting the best of results. The manager of the West End Poultry Yards says that since giving this mash to his hens the egg production has increased 60 per cent. For sale by

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We are also prepared to fill all orders entrusted to us for MILITARY CLOTHING at reasonable price. We are sole agents for the Crown Tailoring Company, of Toronto, the largest Military Tailoring Company in Canada.

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House Furnishings For Everybody

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FRESH BUCTOCHE OYSTERS served in any style.

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Patronize our Lunch Counter.

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YORK STREET

Notice to Stationary and Hoisting Engineers.

All persons employed in the Province of New Brunswick as stationary or hoisting engineers, and all persons having charge of boilers carrying a pressure of more than fifteen pounds must, on or before the first day of October, 1920, file with the Board of Compensation Board, Saint John, New Brunswick, an application for a Certificate to operate stationary or hoisting engines and boilers carrying a pressure of more than fifteen pounds.

By Order of the Board of Examiners.
H. M. STEWART,
Chairman.

N. B.: Blank forms of application can be obtained on application to the Workmen's Compensation Board.

HOW THE OLD GOVERNMENT TRANSACTED PUBLIC BUSINESS

How the Deficit of \$32,861 on the Now Famous Patriotic Potato Transaction was Concealed From the People — The Province was Recouped With Its Own Money Extracted from the Valley Railway Funds — What J. B. Daggett Stated Under Oath.

While the outstanding features of the patriotic potato scandal as brought out by a Royal Commission are still fresh in the public mind, there are perhaps some interesting details which in the excitement of a political campaign may not be readily recalled by the electorate. All will remember that the old government shortly after the outbreak of the great war decided to donate 40,000 barrels of potatoes to Great Britain "as an expression of our loyalty to the Motherland." Potatoes were a big crop that year and were going begging at \$1 per barrel. It was estimated that to purchase, sort and ship 40,000 barrels would cost the province \$75,000 and that amount was raised by a Lieutenant-Governor's warrant. Mr. J. B. Daggett then secretary of agriculture, was empowered to purchase and ship the potatoes under the direction of his chief Hon. J. A. Murray. Although the potatoes were to be a gift from all the people of New Brunswick the government made it a partisan affair from the start. Mr. Daggett let his old pal Mr. B. Frank Smith in on the game and gave him carte blanche to buy and ship the potatoes. The \$75,000 appropriated for the purpose melted away before a single potato had been shipped from the province and another \$75,000 was appropriated "to complete the work." Mr. Smith, with the credit of the province behind him worked overtime gathering in potatoes from his political henchmen. He purchased and shipped to West St. John something over 42,000 barrels. Big purchases were also made from other friends of the government, with the result that when the 40,000 barrels was sent off to the old country and a smaller quantity to the starving people of Belgium, the government as the result of gross mismanagement found itself with something like 30,000 barrels still on hand. Some of these rotted in the warehouse and were disposed of for hog feed in West St. John.

Sent to Cuba.

Finally what remained of them were shipped to Cuba in two schooners. Not sufficient money to pay the duty, freight nor other charges was realized from the sale and the government found itself facing a loss of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 on the transaction. Mr. J. B. M. Baxter heroically came across with \$3000 which was sent to a broker in Cuba to keep his mouth shut. The deficit was then found to be \$32,861, and A. C. Smith & Co. of St. John were persuaded to sign a note for that amount which was discounted and entered in the books of the province as cash.

A Bogus Statement

Mr. Daggett then cooked up a statement from A. C. Smith & Co. (on one of the firms printed letter heads) showing how the amount was made up (how the potatoes had been sold) and handed it over to the Auditor General for publication in the public accounts.

Now when the Smith note came due Mr. F. W. Sumner, under an arrangement with the late Premier Clarke, sent the money by wire from Moncton and retired it. When the contract for the lower section of the Valley Railway was let to the N. S. Construction Company shortly afterwards Mr. W. B. Tennant received from the company \$100,000 in "advance profits". He turned over \$61,500 of this to George B. Jones, M.P.P. for party purposes and the latter lost no time in getting to Fredericton and turning over \$33,900 to Mr. Daggett to be wired to Moncton to pay off Mr. Sumner's claim for money's advanced. The rest of the story is told by Mr. Daggett in sworn evidence given by him before Commissioner McQueen on November 6th, 1918:

Mr. Daggett's Story

Q. Mr. Hughes—When you were here before you told me about forwarding to Mr. Sumner at Moncton the \$33,900.00, at the request of Mr. George B. Jones?

A. Yes.

Q. At that time you told me that Mr. Jones left it in the Agricultural Department vault, and that the next morning you told Mr. Morton to take it up to the bank and wire it to Mr. Sumner.

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Morton has been here since that time, and he says he has no knowledge of that transaction at all. Have you had any reason to change your mind in the matter at all?

A. Not the slightest.

Q. You said you did tell Mr. Morton to take it up and wire it?

A. I did so.

Q. (Paper shown) The deposit slip has been produced here and is in evidence—No. 74. Is that in your handwriting?

His Memory Bad.

A. It looks like it but I don't have the slightest recollection of it. The body of it looks like it, but the signature I wouldn't be sure of.

Q. That is the signature "William Tompson" you wouldn't be sure of?

A. No.

Q. You would hardly sign that in your ordinary handwriting would you?

A. Well I don't know. When I come to look at it to be candid with you I think I signed that.

Q. And you think that is all in your handwriting?

A. I think it is. I will give you the benefit of the doubt—I think it is.

Q. I don't think there is any doubt. I think it is the same writing as that (cheque, without a doubt).

A. I had forgotten all about it.

Q. Then you must have handed that deposit slip to Mr. Morton when you gave him the money?

A. New when I see it, I am prepared to accept the responsibility for whatever I did.

Q. Then you signed William Tompson's name to the bottom of that deposit slip?

A Fictitious Name.

Q. Who is William Tompson?

A. I don't know. It is just a fictitious name—done more, I think—well I don't know why.

Q. Why would you be signing a fictitious name to it?

A. Well, I wouldn't make a statement about it at all.

Q. Wouldn't it be a matter that you should make a statement about, if you signed a fictitious name to documents that you handed to the bank?

A. There is nothing criminal about it.

Q. I am not so sure about that. You think you signed the name "William Tompson" to that document and had it forwarded to the bank?

A. I think I did.

Q. (By the Commissioner) And do you still stand by the statement you made the other day?

A. What was that?

Q. (By the Commissioner) That you had nothing to do with it at all?

A. I would beg leave to make a correction there. I want to say under oath now that I had forgotten the matter entirely, and if you had asked me again and again, without the document I would have said the same thing.

Q. (By the Commissioner) You told me you had nothing to do with it whatever. You said it was a package and was placed in a drawer in the vault, and you told Mr. Morton in the morning to go in and get it, and you didn't look at it.

A. I would like to say that I am prepared to retract that statement, as far as making out the slip. I must have made out the slip, but I didn't have anything further to do with it.

Q. (By the Commissioner) Mr. Morton said it was in an envelope and he didn't open it—it was sealed.

A. I think he must be mistaken about that. I am at sea about it.

Q. (By the Commissioner) Mr. Jones said he delivered it to you in an envelope. Do you think he was wrong?

A. I couldn't say now. My recollection is that the money was brought to me and I was told there was so much money in it; and I am as sincere about anything in my life, that I hadn't the slightest recollection of making out that slip.

Q. Then you don't know when you made out that slip—whether it was when Mr. Jones was there, or after he left?

A. It might have been when he was there. I don't remember when I made it out.

Q. Evidently you must have known the amount that was in the package when you put down those figures?

A. I must have known. I was wrong in that, and am prepared to take it back and accept all responsibility.

His Previous Yarn.

Q. When you were here before you were questioned about that and at page 12, of Take No. 10 of the evidence you said: "Mr. Jones came to the office one afternoon after banking hours and said he had a sum of money to remit to Mr. Sumner and requested that it might be put in the vault."

Q. That is the vault in the office of the Department of Agriculture?

A. Yes. I opened the vault and he put it in. He was just there a few minutes, and he said he might possibly go home that night, and he said, "If I do go home will you see that it is remitted to Mr. Sumner in the morning." In the morning I mentioned the matter to Mr. Morton and I said to him, "There is a package of money that Mr. Jones left in here to go to Mr. Sumner, and I wish you would take it up to the Bank of Montreal as he requested and remit it"; and Mr. Morton I suppose did it. He went and got it.

Q. How much was there in that package?

Never Touched It.

A. I never asked Mr. Jones how much was in it. I never touched the package at all. He went with me to the vault of the Department of Agriculture.

Q. Do you remember what date it was?

A. No.

Q. Would it be about the time of the Westmorland by-election?

A. I don't remember about that.

When was that by-election?

Q. About the 30th of May.

A. My recollection of it is that it was—I would not pretend to say.

Q. At any rate, you say when Mr. Jones came—that is Mr. George B. Jones, the member of the Legislature?

A. Yes.

Q. Was then a member of the Legislature for the County of Kings, and is now?

A. Yes.

Q. That would be in 1916? A—Yes.

Q. The time of this note transaction? A—Yes.

Q. Did he tell you where the money came from?



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Q. That would be in 1916? A—Yes.

Q. The time of this note transaction? A—Yes.

Q. Did he tell you where the money came from?

A—No, he never told me where the money came from.

Q—Did you know what it was to go to Mr. Sumner for?

A—I supposed it was something in connection with this business. He was only there a few minutes and went out.

Q—You supposed it was in connection with this potato business?

A—Yes. Somebody told me that Mr. Sumner was financing it.

Q—You knew as much as you wanted to know?

Tried to Evade It

A—Yes. I didn't want to get mixed up with it. I was mixed up in it more than I wanted to be. I was trying to evade it. Mr. Jones simply came in and asked the privilege of putting the money in the vault, and I didn't know why I should refuse him. I told Mr. Morton that Mr. Jones had left some money to go to Mr. Sumner.

Q—Did you fill out the deposit slip?

A—No.

Q—Did you tell Mr. Morton what it was?

A—No. I just told him it was a sum of money to go to Mr. Sumner.

Was All Fiction

Q—Now you say that is not correct? A—I wish, when I see this slip, to absolutely correct that statement that I didn't fill out the slip; and if I had been on trial for my life five minutes ago I would have said I didn't. I had forgotten the transaction entirely.

Q—Then is isn't true that you did not touch this money at all? A—Yes, that part is true.

Q—You didn't touch it? A—No, I didn't have anything to do with it.

Q—You filled out the amount of the deposit slip, and you must have counted it in order to do that. A—I don't remember that I did.

Q—You don't remember anything about it apparently except what the document shows? A—Yes, the document is correct. That is my signature. I did that, and I accept the responsibility.

Q—Your memory about a great many things seems to be—

A—Your's would be after three or four years.

Q—I doubt if it would if I was dealing with transactions of this kind.

Was in Error

A—I think it would. I am prepared to admit I was in error the other day. I couldn't do anything more under any consideration whatever.

Q—No, you couldn't help admit it now, when the document is here.

A—I would have admitted it if I thought I did. When I saw Mr. Morton's evidence I thought he was wrong. I was as confident of that as anything in the world.

Q—That apparently, was in order to pay the money that had been advanced by Sumner to retire the note which

(Continued on Page Seven).

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