

# Dollar Day

IS ALWAYS HERE. WE ARE CONTINUALLY SAVING DOLLARS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.

## Fish

We have another lot of FRESH HER-RING. Get some before they are gone.  
**7 CENTS LB.**  
Also Kippers, Bloaters, Salt Herring and Fillets.

## Flour

Five Roses, Purity \$4.75  
5 Crown ..... \$4.65  
Snow White ..... \$4.65  
SMALL BAGS of all kinds \$1.25.

## Rolled Oats

20 lb. Bags ..... \$1.00  
90 lb. Bags ..... \$3.50

## Laundry Soap

Savon Service... 5c cake  
6 cakes, 25c.

## New Raisins

Australian Raisins,  
2 lbs for ..... 25c.  
Bulk Seeded Puffed  
Raisins, 2 lbs. . . 30c.  
15 oz. Seeded. . . . 15c.  
2 pkgs for 23 cents.

## Prunes

3 lbs. good Prunes. . 30c.  
Fancy Prunes. . . 17c lb.  
Evap. Peaches. . . 30c lb.  
Bulk Currants. . . 16c lb.

## Brooms

We have quite a variety to choose from.  
**44c up to 95c.**

## Soda Biscuits

IN SMALL BOXES  
13c and 14c lb.  
ALSO IN BULK  
15c lb., 3 lbs for 40c.

## Village Cake

15c lb., 2 lbs for 25c.

## Matches

FOR DOLLAR DAY  
REGULAR 15 CENT BOXES  
10 BOXES for \$1.00

# YERXA GROCERY CO.

2 STORES  
York St. Queen St.

## EVIDENCE OF SIR THOMAS TAIT ON CONDITIONS AT MINTO; COMPANY'S POSITION DEFENDED

The following is a statement in part made before the Royal Commission investigating the Minto wage dispute by Sir Thomas Tait, president of the Minto Coal Company, Limited:

I became interested in coal mining in the Minto district in the summer of 1911 when I was induced by the late Mr. Timmerman of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to visit Minto with him and look into the possibilities of profitably mining coal in that field.

The conditions prevailing there at that time appeared to be such as to justify me in acquiring some areas and engaging in the mining of coal.

For instance, the miners at that time were paid \$1.00 per gross ton for mining coal and delivering it on the cage at the bottom of the shaft, and they paid for the explosives and tools they used. The coal seams in the area south of Minto which I acquired, were, if I am not mistaken, about thirty inches thick, and the coal was easily mined. The seam was on the average only about fifty feet below the surface, and there was no very hard rock encountered in sinking shafts. The Provincial Royalty was then 10 cents per gross ton and there was no Workmen's Compensation Act involving large payments.

At that time the only railway connection which Minto had, was a railway to Norton, on the Intercolonial Railway, between St. John and Moncton; and coal mined at Minto had to be marketed to the east where it was more difficult to compete with Nova Scotia coal than it would be to the west of Minto.

### Built a Railway.

In view of this I understood the building of a Railway to a connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Gibson; and of a branch line from there to the mill of the Canadian Cotton Company at Marysville. This railway and branch line were completed in 1913, and I can affirm this, that not \$1.00 was expended except for legitimate construction purposes, and that so far as I am aware, these railway lines have never cost the Province one penny.

On the contrary as an outcome of the leasing of the line from Minto to Gibson to the Canadian Pacific Railway, that Company leased the line from Minto to Norton from the Province, and the Province was thereby saved a very large expenditure not only to put and maintain this line in safe running condition but to meet annual deficits in operating expense. Moreover the Province has received a much larger revenue from Royalty as a result of the larger tonnage mined.

An agreement was made with the Canadian Pacific Railway to lease and maintain and operate the line from Minto to Gibson and the Marysville branch for a rental equivalent to 40 percent of the gross revenue, but subsequently, indeed before these

lines were completed, that Company bought these lines from me and my associates for the exact amount expended on their construction, and all I received for my services was a small sum of remuneration for supervising their construction. Neither the Minto Coal Company nor I, nor my associates have since had any interest in these lines—which are known as the Fredericton and Grand Lake Railway.

### Made a Contract.

In consideration of the construction of that railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway entered into a contract with the coal Company I had formed, (The Minto Coal Company), to buy from it all the coal used on its branch lines in New Brunswick for a period of ten years. Since the expiration of that contract, the Canadian Pacific Railway has taken comparatively little coal from the Minto district; buying most of the coal used on its New Brunswick lines in Nova Scotia or in the United States, thus building up and maintaining mining communities there instead of Minto where every additional miner means more passenger, Freight, Express and Telegraph business for that corporation.

As the years passed, the Minto Coal Company acquired mining areas to the north of Minto, and when the best of its areas to the south were approaching depletion the Company commenced to develop its Northern Area. A railway line of about one and one half miles long was built by the Company from a junction with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to serve this area, and later on an agreement was entered into with the Canadian National Railway to construct a spur line from Hardwood Ridge to a connection with the Coal Company's line, a distance of over five miles, and this spur line was completed over two years ago.

The cost of developing the Northern Area has been very large—the coal seam is considerably deeper than in the south, and a very hard rock is encountered in sinking shafts. The character of the coal and other conditions are such, that hand pick mining is costly; consequently the Company decided to equip the Northern Area for Machine Mining, and a very large expenditure has been incurred for steam power and electrical equipment, and for mining machines, conveyors, haulage, etc.

The residences provided for employees at the Southern area had gradually to be transferred to the Northern area, and many new residences built.

The Company had on the 30th June last, 26 houses and 8 camps at the Southern area, and 125 houses and 20 camps at the Northern area. Some of these buildings at the Southern area have since been moved to the Northern area.

### Provincial Royalty.

The Province now charges a Royalty of 15 cents per gross ton as contrasted with 10 cents for the first few years of the Minto Coal Company's operations,—an increase of 5 cents per gross ton, equal to \$5,000 on an output of 100,000 gross tons.

This rate of royalty is much more than it should be, especially if the thinnest of the coal seam in the Minto Field is taken into account when compared with coal royalties paid elsewhere.

The Nova Scotia Government have recently reduced the royalty on coal payable in that Province, and it is now, I think less than one half that charged in New Brunswick, although most of the coal seams in Nova Scotia are much thicker than in New Brunswick.

Since the inception, the Minto Coal Company has paid the Province One Hundred and Forty-seven Thousand, Two hundred and sixteen dollars (\$147,216) as royalty on coal mined.

In England and Australia and elsewhere the royalty charged on coal varies according to the thickness of the seam.

Payments to Workmen's Compensation Board.

The assessments by the Workmen's Compensation Board are beyond all reason—due to some of the provisions of the Act and to its administration.

The Minto Coal Company has, since the inception of the Board, in 1919, paid fifty-five thousand five hundred and seventy dollars (\$55,570) to the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The Company is not opposed to Workmen's Compensation but it does object to some of the provisions of the New Brunswick Act and especially to their interpretation and administration.

The payments to the Workmen's Compensation Board are a very serious burden on the industry and are largely in excess of the premium previously paid by our Company for Employers' Liability Insurance.

I might say there, that there is no gas in our mines, and that, apart from accidents due to their own negligence there have been very few accidents to our men.

### Company's Residences.

An officer of the Dominion Department of Labour has inspected the residences at the Northern area, and has reported them to compare more favorably with those of other coal mines, anyway, in Eastern Canada.

In addition to the cost of the buildings themselves the Company has had to incur considerable expenditure in cleaning and grading on roads, sidewalks, etc.

I think I am safe in saying that the rentals received have not been nearly sufficient to pay taxes, for the upkeep of the buildings etc., and interest on the investment to say nothing of a reasonable charge for depreciation.

The Commission will doubtless inspect these residences. If desired it will be furnished with a statement showing the rentals charged.

### Company's Store Etc.

Being of the opinion that the cost of living at Minto was unduly high owing to the prices charged at the local private stores,—the Company some years ago, at the request of its employees established its own store at the Northern area providing the funds for the buildings, and stock, and for working capital.

The intention was that after proper charges for depreciation and interest on the money provided by the Company, the net profit, if any, would be distributed to the Company's employees in proportion to the amounts represented by their purchases from the store. I regret to say, however, that owing to adverse conditions and to some extent, incompetent management, the operations of the store up to date have resulted in quite a financial loss, but I am informed that its establishment and maintenance have served to keep down prices charged by the other stores in the district, and have therefore effected a saving to our employees in their cost of living.

The Company has done what it reasonably could to make the life of its employees in Minto less monotonous and more congenial by encouraging, baseball, hockey and other sports—the provision of a small library—and by supplying magazines, illustrated papers, etc. It is the desire of the company to do more in this direction by providing a Club and Recreation Hall, and this will be done as soon as its finances will permit.

In reference to the difference of opinion which has arisen as to the rates of wages to be paid to our employees working in the night crews, on, or, in connection with, or following up the coal cutting machines and conveyors; I have to say that it is the desire and policy of the Company to pay all its employees for the services they perform, not only wages that are fair, but when the results of its operations are satisfactory, wages that are on the liberal side, thus keeping the employees contented, and loyal, and interested in the Company's welfare.

I regret to say that the results of operations of the Company do not admit of its continuing to pay its employees the rates of wages which it has hitherto been paying, and that at present I see no prospect in the near future of it being able to do so. I may interject here that a reduction of 20 percent was made in the salaries of the salaried staff in 1924.

Whether or not the rates of wages, it has offered the men on the night crews referred to, and which it has to offer its miners and other employees are fair under the conditions which now prevail, and in the light of recent results of operations is the question which the Commission has been appointed to enquire into.

If the Company is convinced that it cannot under existing conditions afford to pay wages higher than these, and if its employees decline to continue to work at these wages, then it (Continued on Page Three)

## A Few Doses

of

Dr. Wood's  
Norway  
Pine  
Syrup



## May Stop That Cough

Mr. Frank D. Comeau, West Bathurst, N.B., writes:—"I had a very bad cold and cough that settled on my lungs, and I thought that I would never get rid of it."

One day a friend spoke to me about your wonderful remedy, so I sent and got a bottle of it, and after the first dose I took I got relief, and by the time I had finished the bottle I was completely relieved of all my trouble."

"Dr. Wood's" is put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

# FEEDS! FEEDS!

BRAN SHORTS  
FEED FLOUR  
CORN MEAL  
CRACKED CORN  
WHOLE CORN  
SCRATCH FEED  
GOOD FEED OATS  
at Lowest Market Rates

## G. W. HODGE

WE HAVE IN STOCK OUR SPRING AND SUMMER SUITINGS OF GRANITES AND SPORTEX TWEEDS, ENGLISH WORSTEDS AND GUARANTEED BLUES AND GREY SERGES. Also a nice line of SPRING O'COATINGS. English and American Style plates. PRICES RANGE FROM \$35.00 TO \$65.00.

## WALKER BROS.

Queen St. Fredericton

### PALMER'S Moose Head Brand Hunting & Fishing Boots

For generations hunters and fishermen all over the continent have appreciated the utter dependability, honest materials and sterling construction of these time-tested boots.

Through bush, streams and the roughest going, these sturdy yet flexible boots will ensure your entire foot comfort. And their wear is proverbial.

Knee High, waterproof with noiseless Flexible Sewed-on Sole of heaviest oil-tanned leather.

Hand made to your individual measurements.

Send for Catalogue, showing our complete line.

A Boot For Every Purpose

JOHN PALMER CO., LIMITED  
FREDERICTON, N. B.

## CURRIE BROTHERS TO Continue Price Slashing Sale

As a Result of our Advertising Campaign carried on through The Daily Mail, we have cleaned out one stock of Farmer's and Lumbermen's Footwear but we have another supply which we will sell at the following low prices;

	Reg. Price	Sale Price
Mens 10 in. Palmer Draw String Shoe packs	\$5.50	\$4.85
Mens 6 in. Palmer Draw String Shoe packs	\$5.00	\$4.45
Mens 6 in. Palmer Skowhegan Waterproof 'packs	\$3.50	\$2.95
Mens 10 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$3.00	\$2.15
Mens 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S.	\$2.50	\$1.95
Boys 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs	\$2.75	\$2.25
Youths 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs	\$2.00	\$1.60
Little Gents 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned Shoe packs	\$1.50	\$1.25
Boys and Misses 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style Draw String. (Just the thing for Snow-shoeing)	\$2.25	\$1.85
Youths 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String 'packs	\$1.75	\$1.50
Little Gents 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String Shoe packs	\$1.50	\$1.25

The above goods were all manufactured by the John Palmer Co., and are first class standard brands and New Stock—no trash or imitations.

WE ALSO HAVE SOME

Mens 4 Buckle Overshoes. Splendid values, worth at least \$5.00. We are going to sell them at .....\$3.75

Mens Heavy Khaki Wool Trousers, \$6.00 value at .....\$4.50

Mens Heavy Khaki Wool Breeches, Leather bound at .....\$4.50

We have a few Mens Macinaw Jumpers and Shirts, excellent qualities at greatly reduced prices, ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.00

Mens All Wool Under Shirts. While they last going at .....\$1.00

All Wool Home Made Socks and Mittens. Leather Gloves, Mittens and Pullovers.

Ladies' 4 Buckle Overshoes, regular \$5.00. Sale price.....\$3.50

Ladies' 2 Buckle and 2 Snap Button Overshoes, Regular \$5.00 Sale price .....\$3.75

CALL ON US FOR BARGAINS